

**Name:** Marlon Shears  
**Organization:** Fort Worth ISD  
**Title:** Chief Information Officer

**Briefly describe your professional background and experience in education technology**

I have over twenty years of experience in K12 as a proven executive and technologist. My experience has allowed me to facilitate growth for Districts in their technological capabilities, with keen insight on empathy and creative ideas. I am currently the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for Fort Worth ISD and responsible for 100+ staff.

**What are the two most important priorities for CoSN to focus on in the next three years?**

1. Leverage the power of the CoSN network and knowledge base to provide opportunities for at risk youth. Providing a glimpse into the opportunities available to youth that may not have the resources to explore all avenues.
2. Continue the DEL work in not only bringing awareness, but opening pipelines for those in the DEL community to achieve roles of significance in the K12 workspace.

**Please explain how your diverse background, personal and professional, will help impact the CoSN Board.**

As a black male in the K12 space, I have seen all levels of hiring practices that have limited the potential of minority employees. In knowing how to build relationships with peers and stakeholders of relevance, I was able to work around those obstacles. My experiences will allow me to help build the strategies and thought processes necessary to take CoSN to the next level of achievement.

**Describe your relevant experience in providing leadership to nonprofit organizations (e.g. service on boards, events, fundraising), with particular emphasis on any experience working with state or national education and/or ed tech associations.**

I have worked on the board of the 100 black men of Los Angeles. In my duties, we served minority youth with a focus on young black students. Our mentoring program along with Young Black Scholars, linked youth with regional opportunities to learn financial literacy, create business plans, learn mindfulness, and grow as young men in the community. We worked with local community colleges, fire departments, movie industry and others to create opportunities of learning for these young men.

**CoSN has identified diversity as a priority for both the CTO profession and the CoSN organization. As a CoSN Board nominee, how would you help to broaden diversity and/or what experience have you had in evaluating or managing organizational diversity?**

I am on the diversity committee, and as a black male I believe that you achieve the best outcomes when you have the input from various backgrounds. Diversity is at the heart of what makes America great, but the lack of it is what stains America. I will work to ensure we have the diversity programs and set actions to grow true diversity in the agencies we serve.

**Describe your past involvement in CoSN and/or our state chapters**

I am currently on the DEI committee.