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Provide an overview of your professional background and expertise in the field of education technology.

I have been in the IT Department of a public school district for almost 24 years. I have a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems. In my early years, I have worked at every position in the IT department from campus tech to network administrator. I quickly moved into the IT Leadership role and have been happily here for over 20 years. I have also been a Governing Board member, a parent and a community member. I am an advocate for public schools and proud of what Dysart has accomplished.

Identify the top two priorities that you believe CoSN should prioritize over the next three years.

Of course, Cybersecurity and Mitigation is critical. There are so many aspects to Cybersecurity, the most critical is awareness and training. You can have the best firewall and end-point protection but if one employee 'unlocks that door' ...I hate to even think of it. Another area to focus is mitigation...once you do have an incident...how do you remedy the problem and get your district back up and running quickly. All of this is training and awareness. Along the lines of Cybersecurity,...it is costly. I am happy to see CoSN advocate for K12 by working with the FCC to add funding for Cybersecurity support via the ERate program. This would enable many school districts to acquire these expensive, annually invoiced licenses needed to keep networks and data secure. Firewalls are already ERate-able, why not Phishing campaign software and Vulnerability scanning services, MultiFactor solutions, etc.?

Another big area is AI? What are the risks? How can it be used successfully in the K12 environment? One of my favorite CoSN events is the ASU/GSV conference in San Diego, California. This conference afforded me the opportunity to speak with application designers and discuss the needs of a K12 environment and how to best leverage AI in the classroom. This was a great conference!

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

I am a Hispanic woman that started in the IT Industry, in Arizona, in the 90s. I have seen many changes in the Industry...many positive changes. My experiences today are more positive than they were back then. I have worked in very diverse school districts...diverse in student population as well as staff. Dysart has areas of affluence as well as areas where free and reduced percentages are 100%. I live and breathe equity. It is all about equity. I know that diversity is important to CoSN and I bring my experiences both negative and positive to this discussion.

Outline your pertinent leadership experience within nonprofit entities (e.g. board involvement, event management, and fundraising). Highlight any notable engagement with state or national education and/or educational technology associations.

I worked in the IT Department at Dysart while I was in college. I think I was making \$8/hr back then (the 90s). I received my BS degree and was told that I would get a raise. I was offered \$11 /hr and was very unhappy. My supervisor at the time told me that if I was unhappy, I should do something about it. He told me there was an open seat on the Governing Board and if I was serious about wanting to see change, I should run. Well I did! I campaigned and was elected in 2000. Of course, this meant quitting my job but it was worth it. I was on the Dysart Governing Board for 6 years (while working at a neighboring school district). During my tenure on the board (2001-2006) we made many changes. Dysart grew from 1 elem, 1 middle and 1 HS to 20 elementary and 4 HS in that time. Network Infrastructure was implemented and salaries were increased. We also established Board Governance with the help of ASBA. As a board, we worked very closely with ASBA to establish norms and approve policy that assisted in bringing Dysart out of the dark ages.

CoSN places a strong emphasis on promoting diversity within the CTO profession and our organization as a whole. As a nominee for the CoSN Board, please elaborate on your strategies for enhancing diversity and share any instances where you have been involved in assessing or overseeing organizational diversity.

I am an advocate for CoSN in the West. I talk about CoSN at every opportunity and am currently working with AzTEA (AZ affiliate of ISTE), as a board member, to establish our new CoSN Chapter in Arizona. I currently chair the CoSN SubCommittee and am working on bringing awareness of all CoSN has to offer to all Arizona school districts. Arizona has been fortunate this year as the AZ Department of Ed purchased an annual CoSN membership for all Arizona Schools. I am one of the only a handful of CETLs in AZ and encourage, at every opportunity, other districts to jump on board. Again as a Hispanic woman in the industry, I feel I give other minority groups confidence and feelings of perseverance to keep growing. I am known as a leader in student data privacy and asked to present at local conferences constantly. I also get "you are the CoSN lady" as I am constantly encouraging other districts to join and take advantage of all the CoSN resources available. I am recognized at many local events by others that have seen me speak and contact me for assistance.

Detail your prior engagement with CoSN and/or our state chapters.

I have been a member of CoSN for many years. I attend every annual CoSN Conference (I have presented at a few as well). I have hosted a CoSN Cybersecurity conference at Dysart. I currently sit on the AzTEA Board and am chair to the subcommittee for our newly created AZ CoSN Chapter. I am so proud of AzTEA and their partnership with CoSN. The Arizona Department of Education purchased an annual CoSN membership for all Arizona School districts. We are currently in the planning stages and setting a schedule for CoSN events. This will be a busy year but after many years of trying to establish a Chapter in Arizona, it will be very rewarding.