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

I began my career as a fourth grade classroom teacher in rural Maine. In 1994 we were beginning to use the Internet and email in classrooms and the “one computer classroom” was the model. That experience led to being recognized as an expert in classroom technology as well as an expert in the more technical facets which eventually led to my role as a STEM teacher, instructional coach and Director of Technology. I view my expertise in Educational technology as an evolution through various technology roles that have provided me with a perspective on how technology should serve school districts, teachers and students. While I come from the educational side of technology, I believe it is equally as important to understand the technical facets required to provide the needed services to operate a district. My areas of expertise are in data and privacy, professional learning, technology integration models, and project implementation. I am passionate about leadership to promote teamwork and positive team culture. CoSN has played a critical role in my growth by providing opportunities to grow in areas of business management, district operations and cybersecurity. In addition to my 25 years of experience in educational technology roles, I also have my Master’s Degree in Educational Technology from Lesley University and my Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Education Leadership from SNHU.

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

As a member of the CoSN board, I have participated in two strategic planning processes. The most recent process feels like an exciting revitalization of the CoSN vision for ed tech leaders and my top two priorities are aligned with these strategic goals in mind.

The first strategic goal is to “Enable inclusive and nimble technology leadership to drive innovation.” The role of a Chief Technology Officer is constantly evolving and the ability to be nimble allows us to address the diverse needs of districts. As part of this goal, CoSN should keep a focus on the development of edtech leaders at all stages of their careers and in all facets of the ever-changing role. Aligning the CoSN framework of essential skills to this changing role will communicate the skills of technology leaders while encouraging the inclusiveness of our next generation of technology leaders. Thought should be given to the wide array of responsibilities we have in small and large organizations and to the importance of leadership in our roles.

The third strategic goal is to “Empower our network to build community.” With the publication of the new strategic plan, we continue to value the role our state chapters play and it is exciting to see existing refinement in the membership structure. I believe there is more we can do to grow our state chapters. It was the NHCTO, that brought me to CoSN and enriched me both through the collegial relationships as well as the quality resources.

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

Both Maine and New Hampshire are primarily made up of smaller districts and that provides me a perspective on rural and suburban districts' needs in respect to funding resources and staffing. Every district has challenges but the challenges can be very different depending on your geography and economic factors. I have had a seat at the table and I have also had to request a seat at the table. These experiences have bolstered my ability to advocate for others in my position.

Among my educational strengths are STEM teaching, science and geography education. I spent three years on the LEGO education advisory board working alongside other educators to inform STEM education. As a Grosvenor teacher fellow, I was able to travel to the Arctic aboard the National Geographic Endeavor to bring back experiences to our elementary schools in New Hampshire.

Personally, I am the mother of three children who have taught me a tremendous amount about what defines success and what college and career ready look like. My oldest is a recent college graduate. He majored in Business management and is working in a law firm as a legal assistant to explore whether he wants to pursue a career in law. My daughter went to a year of technical school to become a Cosmetologist and is now working as a full time stylist. My youngest son went directly into the workforce at Starbucks. He was promoted to a shift supervisor within 7 months and is saving for a house.

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.

As a CTO in the state of Maine, I have joined both technology associations, ACTEM and METDA. This year I am excited to bring my knowledge of Data and Privacy and Teamwork to the ACTEM annual conference. Through METDA, I am also participating in a new Mentor/Mentee program to provide mentoring to a new Technology Director. During the last school year, our district joined Maine's first cohort for cybersecurity, Shields Up Maine. The program covered the CISA framework and available cybersecurity resources in Maine and at the federal level.

I was previously a member of the NHCTO, a CoSN state chapter. In this organization I chaired the clinic committee for two years and served as the President. During my year as President, I worked alongside my other board members to transition our group to our own non-profit organization after initially joining as a part of our ISTE state chapter, NHSTE. Data and Privacy was among the work that the NHCTO focused on. Our state chapter worked with representatives from our state legislature to refine a proposed data and security related law. After the passing of the law we continued to advocate for New Hampshire districts to be sure everyone had the resources to meet the requirements of the law including membership in the Student Data Privacy Consortium and a model that could be replicated in other states.

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.

In the CoSN 2023 State of Edtech leadership report, women still only comprise one third of the technology leader roles and this data changed very little from the 2016 report. I recently authored a blog post on the issues surrounding women in IT roles. In this article I cited six takeaways that we all need to be doing:

- Share the data and the studies! Help others be informed about the inequalities that exist.
- Be aware of stereotypes and challenge them.
- Advocate for your own seat at the table.
- Know the difference between mentorship and sponsorship.
- Be a champion for other women. Intentionally open up doors and knock down barriers for others.
- Be yourself!

As an example of my work around diversity, I took the lead on the implementation of a new policy regarding gender in our district. The administrators and counselors were struggling to honor the gender preferences of students because of a lack of communication between systems and processes. We worked to create a plan for students that aligned with state law and district policy to make sure that all staff who needed to be informed of any change would receive the necessary notification and that the technology systems in place would not serve as limitations but rather serve the student's preferred name and gender.

I am in a leadership position to facilitate these processes that help students and staff. We need to use our influence to promote the change needed to create more diverse environments.

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

I became a member of CoSN when I joined the NHCTO chapter. Within two years of joining the chapter, I became the President and had a leadership role in planning the chapter's annual clinic.

As a member of the CoSN board, I have served on the CETL certification committee and the Driving K-12 Innovation Advisory Board. I am also a member of the Digital Equity Advisory group that provides direction for the work around equity and most recently released the Digital Equity Toolkit.

I was part of the conference committee for the 2022 CoSN conference in Nashville, Tennessee and the 2023 conference in Austin, Texas. Being able to be a part of the planning committee was rewarding as I was able to have input on the direction of speakers and the conference format. Attending CoSN conferences is a highlight of my professional learning each year.

Last year, I participated in the Small and Rural District Luncheon and Summit. This opportunity originated from board discussions around equity in offerings for both large and small districts at our conference. We had a small group in its inaugural year and I hope to continue to promote this offering as well as other offerings that highlight the needs for small and rural school districts.