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Provide an overview of your professional background and expertise in the field of education technology.
José R. González has over 20 years of K-12 Education experience. He has earned a solid reputation as a growth-focused professional with a proven capacity to lead organizations to consistent success. José has led multiple organizations including: Helpdesk, software development, level one to engineering level device management, as well as multiple
infrastructure project and support teams. He also brings a talent for spearheading special projects and service management functions as well as a history of empowering teams to exceed ambitious objectives. Over the course of his career, he has demonstrated an innate ability to deliver exemplary customer support, guide full life cycle planning, track progress through KPI's, advise school district personnel, and formulate hardware and software decisions and recommendations.
José repeatedly refines his skills in such critical areas as strategic planning, software development, quality assurance, performance improvement, technology planning, and IT service management. In addition, he has acquired consistent success in skillful contract negotiation and vendor management.

Identify the top two priorities that you believe CoSN should prioritize over the next three years.
In the next three years, the top two priorities should be technology innovation (i.e. artificial intelligence) and cybersecurity.

We continue to thrive in a digital world – the past three years has shifted how we collectively look at technology use in education and the overall role of Information Technology. As CoSN helps leaders succeed in the digital transformation, LACOE is leading efforts to improve the lives of students and our educational community through service, leadership and advocacy in Los Angeles County. This is further expanded in LACOE Technology Services' Roadmap which highlights the critical success factors needed to meet these goals.

Technology Innovation: CoSN's first strategy includes enabling inclusive and nimble technology leadership to drive innovation, which coincides with LACOE's 5th pillar of focus of modeling organizational excellence and innovation. By empowering our leaders with cutting-edge professional learning, networking, and resources, CoSN can also reach its second strategy of enhancing member experience to nurture belonging. Creating a supportive environment will initiate a chain reaction among our students – who represent the future.

Cybersecurity: K12 cybersecurity incidents have continued to increase over the last few years. Educational systems must work together to establish enterprise cybersecurity strategies focused on people, process and technologies to minimize the cyber risk landscape. Making cybersecurity a shared responsibility helps lower the risk of attack due to increased awareness and communication across all private and public partnerships.

Please explain how your diverse background, personal and professional, will help impact the CoSN Board.
José R. González has over 20 years of K-12 Education experience and actively participates in multiple organizations with the aim of improving both education and the community. In alignment with CoSN's strategies, he is focused on empowering his team with resources and creating promotional pathways.
As Chief Technology Officer of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the largest regional education agency in the nation, José provides executive leadership for the Technology Services department and provides direction, coordination, recommendations, and support of LACOE-wide technology plans, implementations, standards, and initiatives.

He brings a talent for spearheading special projects and service management functions. Most notably is LACOE's implementation of the BEST Project, a necessary system modernization for LACOE and more than 125 agencies, including school districts, community colleges, charter schools, and joint powers authorities. This multi-year project will achieve a goal of having an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning System for budget development, finance, human resources and payroll.

Over the course of his career, José has demonstrated an innate ability to guide full life cycle planning and track progress through KPI's with the creation of a Technology Services Visioning and Roadmap to align with LACOE's Strategic Plan. With the identification of critical success factors, José has set the foundation for continuous improvement.

José repeatedly refines his skills in contract negotiation and vendor management. While at the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest district in the nation, he successfully organized various projects:
$80M – Covid-19 Emergency Response Project
$300K – Windows 8.1 OS LAUSD Pilot
$260K – Granicus Board Item Management & Video Streaming
$80M – My Integrated System for Students (MISIS)
$100K – Attendance Tracking Software Implementation

José is a firm advocate of continued learning. He is on track to receive an Executive Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Southern California.

Apart from education, José was appointed to the Cudahy City Council in 2018, and subsequently won a council seat in the November 2018 election. In 2019, he was appointed as Mayor of the City where he spearheaded the City's two-year strategic plan, which prioritized streamlining government processes, bringing innovation to city hall, and emphasizing a friendly customer service oriented city staff. He currently serves as the Vice Mayor.

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.
City of Cudahy - Appointed Committees
● Eco Rapid
Pursue development of a high speed and energy efficient transit system.
● Los Angeles County City Selection Committee
Appoint city representatives to boards, commissions, and agencies as required by law.
Memberships
● California County Superintendents Technology Steering Committee (TSC)
Provide leadership and technical support to county offices of education and school districts in California.
● Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
Premier professional organization for K-12 EdTech leaders, their teams, and other school district leaders.
● California IT in Education (CITE)
To lead, develop, and support technologists and education organizations to foster student success.
● International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE)
Works with the education community to accelerate the use of technology to solve tough problems and inspire innovation.
California Contract Cities Association, Executive Board Member
Provides educational opportunities, networking, and access for members; advocates for rights of cities to practice the contracting model and strengthen local control.
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Member Board of Directors
Protect public health and the environment through innovative and cost-effective wastewater and solid waste management.

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.

Over the past three years, LACOE has led efforts to create diversity, equity and inclusion strategies. LACOE includes equity and integrity as part of its organizational values. The promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion are provided through frameworks via implicit bias training, events and presentations, and sponsored legislation.

Organizations typically follow a top-down model. However, for change to occur, it often needs to start from the highest levels of leadership. As a result, José is leading the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work with LACOE's Executive Cabinet, which includes our County Superintendent of Schools and twelve (12) Executive Cabinet members. Each Executive Cabinet member began looking at data from the past three years for strengths, trends, outcomes and opportunities. In addition, each Executive Cabinet member engaged their staff to provide input on goals and action steps.

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

In February 2023, LACOE and CoSN partnered to host a CTO Tech Talk at the Los Angeles Dodger Stadium. The CTO Tech Talk is an annual in-person opportunity for technology leadership from LA County's 80 school districts to collaborate, strategize, and learn together about critical topics that impact technology in education. This year's event focused on various current topics such as cybersecurity, incident response, disaster recovery, eSports, etc.. Key speakers included representatives from the FBI Los Angeles Cyber Task Force, LAUSD CIO, and DHS Cyber Security Advisor.

We are coordinating a follow up event with San Francisco COE/USD and San Mateo COE to hold a Regional Northern California CoSN event to bolster the California Chapter. This will align with CoSN's opportunity to extend its impact across California and continue to deepen its support across various school and corporate partners.

José has also has attended the COSN Conferences held in Philadelphia, PA in April 2022 and Nashville, TN in April 2023.