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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wendyjonestx/>**Provide an overview of your professional background and expertise in the field of education technology.**

From the inception of the Internet in schools to the advent of AI, I have witnessed educational technology revolutionize our education system. With over three decades of experience in various educational roles, including educator, coach, instructional technology facilitator and coordinator, professional learning coordinator, director of curriculum and innovation, and professor, I have observed the evolution of technology systems and processes. The transition from single-computer classrooms to ubiquitous access has brought about tremendous growth in infrastructure, resources, and support to ensure secure and private environments in an ever-changing world. With safety as our top priority, my former district was among the early adopters to earn our TLE. As a front-runner in our area, the technology team spearheaded several large district-wide initiatives through cross-functional collaboration among all stakeholders. Our students enjoyed anytime/anywhere access to educational resources, which facilitated a smoother transition during the pandemic. My foray into the corporate world at CDW has given me invaluable insights into how systems and processes operate across diverse ecosystems. Approaching challenges from a leadership perspective rather than a sales focus, my team focuses on customer relationships and identifies optimal solutions. The Education Strategists built expertise in areas such as cybersecurity, school safety, device and classroom ecosystems, classroom modernization, and networking. CDW Education actively collaborates with organizations such as COSN, ISTE, and SEDTA to understand the challenges faced by our schools and utilize the collective strength of our CDW partnerships to build a better technology ecosystem for the future.

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

With the ever-changing world and the challenges facing K12 Education today, CoSN must be at the forefront of AI and School Safety. Working in industry with a background in education lights a passion and responsibility to do right and good by all. At CDW, we work with leaders from across the globe and have insight into what is new and innovative in the market. We are at the precipice of technological insight, seeing what is possible across all our segments, from healthcare, government and education. As a former educator, the innovations in corporate or healthcare are generally much faster in implementation than in education. Having the foresight to see the possibilities and network with the right stakeholders to bring that innovation into the educational arena while focusing through the lens of safety, security, and privacy at an affordable price for education is critical. AI is bleeding into all aspects of our educational landscape, from physical safety, transportation (school buses), classroom design, administrative operations, and the classroom. Working with COSN to drive change and harness the power of CDW relationships would help to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board to meet the highest priorities of our schools. As the new CoSN strategic plan identifies the need to support IT leaders in emerging practices, professional growth, and a strong community of colleagues, to address any priority issues of our K12 schools will have a network of school leaders, private sector partners, and the CoSN organization.

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

As a woman in technology, I have witnessed significant changes. However, I believe that there are still numerous untapped opportunities for growth. Growing up in a predominantly male-dominated field, I faced the challenge of demonstrating that my voice and ideas could make an impact. Although the representation of women has increased over the years, it remains far from prevalent. My transition to CDW has exposed me to the potential of a diverse workforce. CDW's commitment to diversity is evident throughout the organization, with CEO Chris Leahy leading by example. CDW has received several accolades for its commitment to diversity, including being named Forbes' Best Employers for Diversity in 2023 and receiving the Women Business Collaborative's CEO Excellence in Gender Equity and Diversity Award.

As my team engages with districts nationwide, we encounter a wide range of human experiences. Each district is unique and presents its own set of challenges. CDW Education Strategists aim to build relationships and foster connections. By working closely with nationwide districts, we provide various solutions to support workforce development for our customers and their students. Our goal to address digital equity and access is at the forefront of every customer conversation. As a board member, I will bring my district-level experiences, the ongoing experiences of my education strategy team, and the extensive resources available through CDW to enable my board position to embrace belonging and make a meaningful impact in the realm of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for COSN members.

**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.**

Working with national education technology nonprofit organizations is integral to my role as the CDW education strategist manager. At CDW, the collaborative management of partnership and contract negotiations establish working protocols with nonprofit technology entities to provide insight into governance and financial structures, including corporate partnerships and national events that sponsor professional learning opportunities. Our team actively supports partnerships at conferences to expand our thought leadership offerings. In our vendor-led session room, our primary objective is not to "sell" but to educate, highlight, and uplift all participants. Throughout the year, we closely listen to the needs of our customers. If they are grappling with a particular issue, we collaborate with districts that have successfully addressed it to help present solutions.

When new concepts or strategies are highlighted, we leverage experts from partner networks such as ISTE, COSN, and SEDTA and strategic partners like Google, Microsoft, and Intel. This enables us to provide high-level solutions for district challenges. Understanding the strategic plan of each partnership drives alignment towards common goals.

My involvement with the CoSN Driving K12 Innovation project has provided me with deep connections to the drivers and barriers our customers face. Similarly, supporting the Texas CTO Clinic/TETL has allowed me to build strong relationships while working towards building support around the Texas Student Privacy Alliance. By spreading these opportunities across my team, we have fostered strong connections within some state affiliates' Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee and Cybersecurity Committees.

**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.**

As a nominee for the CoSN Board, I understand the importance of strongly emphasizing promoting diversity within the CTO profession and our organization as a whole. To achieve this, I believe in the adage "you can't improve what you don't measure," especially regarding diversity. Reflecting on my career, I have observed that many EdTech leaders I admired shared similar backgrounds, races, social statuses, and genders. The EdTech Leadership Survey states that K12 CTOs do not reflect diversity.

At CDW, we are fortunate to be led by strong and diverse leaders who embody our commitment to inclusivity. Our organizational DNA fosters an environment where all employees can thrive. We have established eight Business Resource Groups (BRG) that support the inclusivity of our workforce. For instance, CDW's Women's Opportunity Network provides resources, connections, and development opportunities to empower women at all levels while driving our business objectives. Similarly, we have groups open to all coworkers but celebrate our diverse coworkers in the Black, LGBTQ, Latin American, and Asian communities, providing learning and belonging across all groups. With representation across multiple BRGs, the Education Strategist team mentors, leads, and supports coworkers and interns and shares externally with our customers to model inclusivity and growth to upcoming CTOs.

To build similar structures at CoSN, embracing diversity and empowering collaboration with the business community is essential. By working together, we can leverage their expertise and resources to create programs that support diversity and inclusion in educational technology leadership roles.

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

I have been an active member of CoSN through my Texas state chapter and our CDW corporate partnership since 2011. At CDW, we highly value CoSN as an organization that helps guide our internal

understanding of K12 school technology issues and fosters dialogue for solutions. In Texas, I actively participated in our state chapter and extensively used the resources available to me. My team at CDW supports the work of CTO Clinics/Chapters to provide industry support to district leaders. By highlighting the resources CoSN offers, we can provide a solid foundation for supporting districts as trusted advisors. As corporate sponsors, we have contributed to various committees and initiatives, including building questions and supporting the EdTech Leadership Survey. I have also been an active member of the Driving K-12 Innovation task force and have had the opportunity to present at the Driving K-12 Innovation Summit. We frequently present at state and national level conferences, where we showcase the strengths of our CoSN members.

Personally, I have completed the Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) process and strongly encourage our team members to participate in this invaluable professional learning experience. The CETL Certification has helped strengthen my trusted relationship with other CoSN members. Over the years, I have attended numerous CoSN conferences, actively participating in sessions, representing our CDW booth, and engaging in learning opportunities with K12 districts.