

Chantell Manahan

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CETL? Yes

Detailed overview of your professional experience in education technology, including specific roles, responsibilities, and accomplishments.

I began my career as a classroom teacher who leveraged technology to differentiate instruction and expand opportunities for students. My passion for meaningful integration led to my role as a Technology Mentor, where I trained colleagues on Google tools, social media best practices, and innovative instructional strategies.

Recognized for empowering others, I founded the High Tech Hornets, a student technology integration team that became part of Indiana's Hoosier Student Digital Leaders program. This initiative amplified student voice, cultivated peer-to-peer support, and raised our district's profile statewide.

After earning my Building-Level Administrator license, I was invited by my superintendent to apply for the district Director of Technology position. Over the past ten years in this role, I have:

- Completed a 1:1 device rollout in 2016 and implemented structured virtual learning days for professional development days and inclement weather days, ensuring continuing and equitable access for every learner.
- Led a student information system migration and the onboarding of countless instructional and operational tools.

- Secured multiple state grants for teacher professional learning and a Michael & Susan Dell Foundation grant to implement interoperability standards and actionable district data dashboards.

- Spearheaded cybersecurity, privacy, data governance, and AI policies and communication protocols to ensure clarity and trust district-wide.

- Fostered cross-functional partnerships that earned our team Indiana CTO Council's Tech Team of the Year and recognition as a 2022 K-12 EdTech IT Influencer.

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

Priority 1: Elevate CoSN's Visibility and Influence

To remain the trusted voice for K-12 technology leadership, CoSN must continue to expand its reach and relevance. This includes refining and amplifying our social media strategy, building strategic partnerships with peer organizations such as AASA, SETDA, NSPRA, and ISTE, and creating high-value content that directly addresses CTOs' evolving needs. By showcasing member success stories, amplifying thought leadership, and cultivating relationships with decision-makers and influencers, CoSN can ensure that educational technology leadership remains visible, credible, and impactful at the national level.

Priority 2: Fill the National Guidance Gap in K-12 EdTech

With the dissolution of key supports such as the Office of Educational Technology and diminished guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, districts and states are increasingly seeking a trusted source for best practices, policy guidance, and future-focused thought leadership. CoSN is uniquely positioned to step into this space. Over the next three years, CoSN should develop and disseminate actionable frameworks, policy recommendations, and professional learning opportunities to address pressing challenges such as AI integration, cybersecurity, interoperability, and digital equity. Acting as a convenor of national expertise and a proactive advocate for modernized education policy will reinforce CoSN's role as the go-to resource for leaders navigating rapid change.

Together, these priorities will ensure CoSN not only serves its members but also shapes the national conversation, strengthening the strategic importance of educational technology in every district.

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 bring extensive nonprofit leadership experience spanning governance, event management, sponsorship development, and mentorship.

As a member, and now Chair, of the Indiana CTO Council Board, I have guided strategic planning and policy alignment for our state chapter. I also help lead the planning team for the annual Indiana CTO Clinic, a statewide conference serving hundreds of technology leaders. In this role, I oversee theme development, session curation, sponsor outreach, and partnership building, work that consistently strengthens attendance and financial sustainability for both the event and the organization as a whole.

Locally, I have served six years on the Angola Area Chamber of Commerce Board, chairing its Governance Committee throughout my tenure. I revised bylaws and policies, evaluated memoranda of understanding, and ensured mission alignment with state and federal priorities to strengthen our regional education-business ecosystem.

Nationally, my service on the Educator Advisory Board for Project Unicorn reflects my commitment to secure, interoperable K-12 data practices. This work earned me an invitation to the White House “Back to School Safely” event, where I advocated for federal priorities in cybersecurity and data interoperability.

I also contribute to the Ed-Fi Governance Advisory Team, recently informing the Alliance's position paper on AI and data standards. Beyond formal boards, I mentor new and aspiring leaders through Indiana's CTO2B and CoSN's Early Career CTO Academy, 1Edtech's WIDEN (Women in Data in Edtech Network), and Project Unicorn's Emerging Leader's Cohort, fostering the next generation of technology leaders.

These experiences, spanning local chambers, statewide associations, and national initiatives, demonstrate my ability to steward organizations, manage high-profile events, cultivate partnerships, and advocate for systemic change in K-12 education technology.

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

My CoSN journey began when, as a new Director of Technology, I joined the Indiana CTO2B mentorship program to learn from experienced peers. After earning my CETL certification in 2017, I quickly transitioned to mentoring CTO2B participants, giving back to the network that supported me.

I became an active CoSN volunteer, serving as a CETL Ambassador, planning two CETL Summits, and briefly contributing to the Certification Governance Committee. Since 2020, I have served on the Indiana CTO Council Board, becoming Board Chair in 2024 and strengthening member engagement, sponsorships, and events.

Elected to the CoSN Board of Directors in 2023, I serve/have served on Finance (Treasurer and Chair), Membership, Emerging Technologies, Student Data Privacy, and Driving K12 Innovation committees, helping shape CoSN's strategic direction. I regularly participate in EdTech Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., amplifying CoSN's voice on E-Rate, AI, cybersecurity, and K12 funding.

I also represent CoSN in national data standards bodies such as the Ed-Fi Alliance and 1EdTech, ensuring K12 CTO perspectives inform the future of interoperability. Additionally, I contributed to the Interoperability Maturity Model for K-12 Education, a joint CoSN initiative with CCSSO and CGCS, providing actionable guidance for districts.

These experiences, spanning mentorship, governance, advocacy, and thought leadership, demonstrate my deep, sustained commitment to CoSN's mission and my dedication to advancing K-12 technology leadership nationwide.
