

Dwight Levens

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CETL? Yes

Detailed overview of your professional experience in education technology, including specific roles, responsibilities, and accomplishments. I have devoted over twenty years to advancing education technology, beginning as a classroom teacher and later serving more than a decade as a district Technology Director before moving into my current role as Chief Technology & Information Officer for Oakland Schools, an Intermediate School District in Michigan. I lead a team of nearly 200 IT professionals who provide technology leadership, services, and support to 28 districts, directly impacting more than 175,000 students and 15,000 staff. My responsibilities span cybersecurity, instructional technology, enterprise systems, and infrastructure, always with a focus on equity, innovation, and operational excellence. Notable accomplishments include establishing a countywide cybersecurity framework featuring penetration testing, SIEM monitoring, and MFA adoption; supporting the statewide MiSecure pilot initiative; founding the Oakland Schools AI Collective, which convenes educators from all 28 districts to explore ethical AI adoption; and creating a first-of-its-kind Director of AI Strategy & Innovation role and team within a Michigan ISD. I also oversee enterprise systems such as the MISTAR-Q Student Information System and BusinessPlus ERP, ensuring financial sustainability, compliance, and responsive service delivery. My foundation as a teacher continues to ground my leadership philosophy, ensuring that technology decisions always support instruction and student outcomes. Beyond Oakland County, I serve on the MACUL Executive Board, co-chair CoSN's Belonging & Inclusion Committee, and contribute to national advisory groups. My work has been recognized nationally through my induction into the CoSN Volunteer Hall of Fame, as the 2025 recipient of the AESA Exemplary Service and Innovation for Technological Advancement Award, and as a finalist for the Michigan CIO ORBIE Awards — reflecting my ongoing commitment to service, innovation, and building future-ready learning systems.

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

First, CoSN must continue to strengthen its work around belonging and inclusion. This is vitally important not only for the organizations we serve but also for the students whose futures depend on diverse, inclusive, and equitable learning environments. CoSN's efforts in this space—including initiatives like the Women in IT breakfast at the national conference—provide critical spaces for connection, growth, and advocacy. As a leader and ally, I have personally benefited from these opportunities to learn how to better support underrepresented voices. Because CoSN's membership includes many CIOs and technology leaders who design and grow teams, this work is one of the organization's most meaningful levers of impact. By continuing to elevate equity and inclusion, CoSN can help shape leadership pipelines and decision-making structures that drive systemic change across districts.

Second, CoSN should ensure that its leadership in student data privacy not only continues but grows stronger. Through Linette Attai's expertise, CoSN has already set the standard in this space, but the rapid influx of AI tools and evolving data ecosystems require an even deeper focus. Privacy cannot be separated from cybersecurity, and both are foundational to maintaining public trust. By building on this strong foundation, CoSN can help districts navigate the complex realities of AI-driven platforms while safeguarding student information and reinforcing secure, future-ready systems.

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.

My leadership experience spans nonprofit governance and national professional associations in education technology. I currently serve on the Executive Board of the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), where I help shape organizational priorities, strengthen statewide membership engagement, and support the annual conference that draws thousands of educators. At the national level, I serve as Co-Chair of CoSN's Belonging & Inclusion Committee, leading efforts to advance equity, representation, and inclusive practices across CoSN's programming and governance. In addition, I contribute to advisory roles with the Tech & Learning Advisory Board and the Merit Advisory Council, where I provide guidance on statewide network infrastructure, cybersecurity, and EdTech policy.

Beyond governance, I have extensive experience in event leadership and community-building. I founded and continue to lead the Oakland Schools AI Collective, which convenes educators and administrators from all 28 districts in Oakland County to explore the ethical and effective use of AI in education. I am also leading the planning of a countywide AI professional learning day in November 2025, featuring multiple learning tracks and national keynote speakers, designed as a model of collaborative capacity-building.

My engagement reflects a commitment to service at both the state and national levels. I was inducted into the CoSN Volunteer Hall of Fame for sustained contributions to the association and am the 2025 recipient of the AESA Exemplary Service and Innovation for Technological Advancement Award. These honors underscore my dedication to building networks, shaping policy, and elevating the voice of technology leaders in K-12 education.

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

I have been a CoSN member for nearly 10 years, demonstrating my long-term commitment to the organization and its mission. During that time, I have attended the annual CoSN conference almost every year, using it as a space to learn, connect, and bring back best practices to my local districts and statewide networks.

Nationally, I serve as Co-Chair of CoSN's Belonging & Inclusion Committee, where I help guide efforts to strengthen equity and representation across CoSN's programs, events, and governance. At the state level, I am an active board member of the Michigan CoSN Chapter, where I work to strengthen governance, expand member engagement, and align chapter activities with CoSN's national priorities. As part of this work, I have proctored CETL certification exams, supporting Michigan technology leaders in pursuing CoSN's credential. While only a few individuals in our state are currently certified, our chapter is actively exploring ways to boost awareness and participation in CETL, recognizing the value it brings to professional growth and leadership credibility. I view this opportunity to join the national board as a way to further inspire and increase certification engagement, helping to grow the number of recognized leaders across Michigan and beyond. CoSN's thought leadership has also directly informed my local work. The AI Framework developed in partnership with Great Schools served as a cornerstone in shaping the Oakland Schools AI Collective, which now brings together leaders from all 28 districts in Oakland County to explore responsible, ethical, and effective AI use.
