



CoSN Awards Program

CoSN is amending the awards process in an effort to seek more input, add more value, and have a greater alignment with our chapters. We are asking that each CoSN chapter submit a nominee from their state for each of the awards (Withrow CTO, Team Award, Digital Equity Award and the new Empowered Superintendent Award).

You may choose the nominee either through your own awards process, or your Board may select the nominees on your own. We would not accept other district nominations from states that have submitted for these awards. CoSN member districts from states without chapters would continue to submit nominations to CoSN directly. Applicants for the awards must be a CoSN member. Below are descriptions and guidance for selecting award nominees.

The Withrow CTO Award

CoSN's Withrow CTO Award recognizes an exceptional district CTO who serves as a true technology champion and whose leadership has been transformative for his school system. The award honors Frank Withrow, a pioneer and champion of K-12 education technology.

Chief Technology Officers (or equivalent) from all types of schools—public, charter, private, parochial, or independent—are eligible for the Withrow CTO Award. Nominees must be CoSN members. CoSN Board members and their institutions are ineligible for CoSN awards.

In order to the application to have the best chance for success, the following areas will need to be addressed in the nomination.

- **LEADERSHIP: (200 Words)** How has the nominee exhibited exemplary leadership in using information technologies to increase opportunities and accessibility for student learning? (Give examples of the roles and activities employed.)
- **COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS: (200 Words)** How has the nominee achieved desired changes through the development of relationships with parents, teachers and educational leaders?
- **INNOVATION: (200 Words)** How does the nominee use technology in innovative ways?
- **IMPACT: (200 Words)** How has achievement in learning been impacted in the district or agency under the nominee's leadership? What data exists to validate impact?
- **PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS: (200 Words)** What partnerships and policies have been championed by the nominee to provide connectivity and/or increase learning by students?

District Team Award

All school district and educational service agency (serving multiple districts) teams are eligible for CoSN's Team Award. Ideal teams include key district leaders such as superintendents, CTOs, and chief curriculum leaders.

Applicants are also allowed to include local and state partners. CoSN Board members and their institutions are ineligible for CoSN awards. The nominee must be a CoSN member.

The winning team will be selected based on its community-building initiatives, innovation inside and outside of the classroom, sizeable impact, and partnership development.

In order to the application to have the best chance for success, the following areas will need to be addressed in the nomination.

- **LEADERSHIP: (200 Words)** How has the team has provided leadership in applying information technologies to increase opportunities and accessibility for student learning? (Give examples of how the team composition was chosen or constructed and the roles and activities of the team members.)
- **COMMUNICATION: (200 Words)** What communication vehicles does the team employ to help parents, teachers, educational leadership and the community form partnerships to engage students in the learning process? What are the main points of your communication plan and what modes of execution have you employed?
- **INNOVATION: (200 Words)** How does the team uses technology in innovative ways that are based on best practices? (Focus on practices that could be replicated by other teams in varying settings.)
- **IMPACT: (200 Words)** How has this team created a major change in the district or agency? What data exists to validate impact?
- **PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS: (200 Words)** What partnerships and policies have been developed by this team to provide connectivity and/or increase learning by students?

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR DIGITAL EQUITY

Student access to robust digital tools is key to their success as 21st century citizens. Yet many students from economically disadvantaged families have limited access to these tools both at school and at home. Clearly, there is a great deal of work that needs to be done. Closing the gap will require a broad approach involving schools and communities working together.

All school district and educational service agency (serving multiple districts) teams are eligible for CoSN's Community Leadership Award for Digital Equity. Ideal teams include key district leaders such as superintendents, CTOs, and chief curriculum leaders. Applicants are also encouraged to include local and state partners. CoSN Board members and their institutions are ineligible for CoSN awards. The nominee must be a CoSN member.

In order to the application to have the best chance for success, the following areas will need to be addressed in the nomination.

- **EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP: (200 Words)** How have the team members provided leadership in delivering information technologies that will increase opportunities and accessibility for all students within the organization?
- **BUILDS COMMUNITY: (200 Words)** What techniques has the team utilized to build community with parents, teachers and educational leaders to affect change? Describe how the team has communicated and involved the community in achieving the desired changes. What data exists to demonstrate that changes have been made successfully?
- **USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES: (200 Words)** How does the team use technology in innovative ways that are based on best practices? How have these activities helped to narrow the so-called "Homework Gap" and provide increased digital equity for all students within the organization?
- **IMPACT: (200 Words)** How has the work of this team created a major change in the district or agency? What data exists to validate impact?

- **PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS: (200 Words)** What partnerships and policies have been developed by this team to provide connectivity for students? How have these partnerships/policies help to increase equity among learners?

Empowered Superintendent Award

CoSN's Empowered Superintendent Award recognizes an exceptional district Superintendent who serves as a true empowered leader, leveraging and championing technologies in the classroom and throughout the district to transform their school district.

School district Superintendents of all types of schools—public, charter, private, parochial, or independent—are eligible for the CoSN Empowered Superintendent Award. Nominees must be CoSN district members.

CoSN's Awards Committee reviews all nominations and will notify the winner in December. The winner will be honored publicly at the CoSN Annual Conference. In addition to national recognition, the winner will receive one complimentary CoSN Annual Conference registration, and an honorarium.

The honoree is selected based on demonstrated rigorous, transformative and innovative learning; commitment to developing district leadership; advocate for effective use educational technologies and innovative learning environments; a progressive communications strategy with the staff, students, parents as well as community, partners, and businesses, and identifies multiples measures to guide student achievement and organizational improvement.

Questions:

- **COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION AND SYSTEM WIDE BUY-IN (200 Words)** Describe how the nominee has strengthened district leadership from Cabinet and principals to teachers. How does the nominee encourage teachers and principals to innovate? Describe examples of how the nominee leverages technology to enhance communications throughout the organization and community served.
- **COMMITMENT TO EQUITY (200 Words)** Provide examples of how the nominee successfully promotes and develops rigorous transformative and innovative learning opportunities for students at all levels and the diverse SES levels and ethnicities in the district. What role has education technology played in providing equitable access to learning opportunities and to expanded access to learning opportunities?
- **COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED LEARNING (200 Words)** Describe the superintendents' role in transforming pedagogy by fostering compelling learning environments throughout the district. How has the nominee demonstrated they are committed to continued staff learning? Provide examples of how improved learning environments have evolved under the nominee's leadership.
- **MEASURING IMPACT (200 Words)** Please describe how the nominee and the district team measures the impact of student progress and agency, particularly using any new assessment tools.
- **COMMUNITY LEADER (200 Words)** Please describe ways the nominee has given back in service to the larger education community.