

Lorrie Owens



Lorrie Owens is the Chief Technology Officer for the San Mateo County Office of Education. She has served in this role for 18 years, and is the first woman in the state of California to lead the technology department for a county office of education. She is, to date, the only African American to hold this position in a county office of education. Prior to joining the SMCOE, Lorrie was the Director of Technology and Information Services for the Dublin Unified School District. She also served as the Technology Service Director for the Alameda Unified School District. Lorrie spent 14 years working for IBM before making a career change to serve in the public sector. She won several awards for her work at IBM before transitioning to K-12. Lorrie has been a member of CEDPA/CETPA/CITE since 1998. She served six years as a

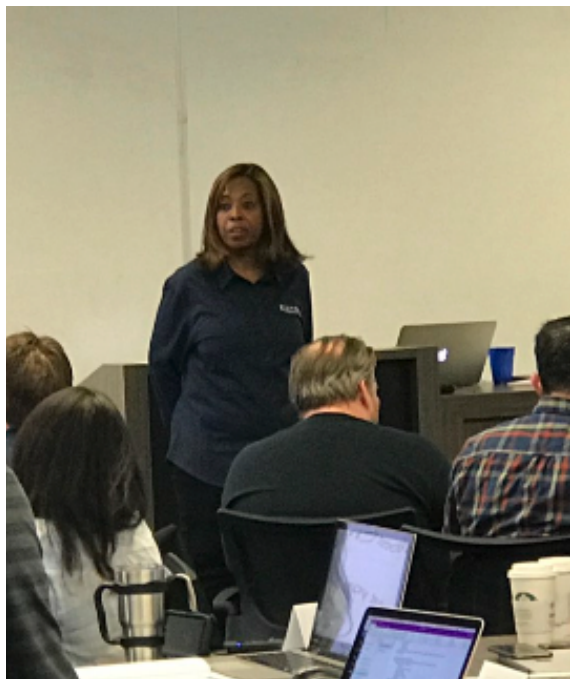
member of the CITE Board of Directors, and served as its president during its 2019 re-branding. She is a 2010 graduate of the CTO Mentor Program, and participated in the program as a member of the Steering Committee, mentor and instructor for many years. She takes pride in the fact that every cohort member she mentored completed

the program. As an instructor, she taught Organizational Management and Personnel Management. Many cohort members in her classes fondly remember her FRISK role play exercise in the Personnel Management class. Lorrie is also a current member of the CoSN Board of Directors, where she is very active in the organization's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work. In addition to her work with



CoSN, Lorrie serves as a member of CAAASA's Statewide Planning Committee, and also participated in the creation of content, "Lifting Our Voices", for CAAASA's Field Guide in 2021. Lorrie is a long-time member of CCSESA's Technology Steering Committee, serving as its first female and, to date, only African-American chairperson. Lorrie served in this capacity for 18 months, which is the longest period of time any chairperson has ever served for the TSC. Lorrie was awarded the STAR Award in 2014 by the 58 county superintendents for her service to the TSC. Lorrie also served as the co-chairperson of the Online Learning Collaborative Subcommittee for several years. This subcommittee produced the California eLearning Framework, an invaluable guide for a number of schools and districts as they navigated the world of on-line and blended learning.

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Lorrie is a popular speaker/panelist throughout the state and the nation. She has not only spoken at CITE conferences (when it was CETPA), but also at conferences,



meetings or webinars produced by ACSA, CUE, Education Week, the Federal Student Privacy Summit, Future of Privacy Forum, the Education Commission of the States, AALRR and CASBO. Lorrie is a regular featured speaker at Future of Education Technology (FETC) Conference, usually held in Florida, where her most popular sessions are on the topics of Digital Equity and Transformational Leadership. She is passionate about the use of technology to enhance the learning experiences of all students, but particularly about how technology can be used to help



level the playing field for students of color in under-resources schools, students in rural schools and special-needs students. Lorrie is very active in the communities in which she works

and lives. She currently serves as the president of the San Mateo NAACP, and has been a member of the NAACP all of her adult life. Lorrie is a past president of Black Women for Political Action. She is known in the community as a tireless civil rights advocate. Lorrie is also a regular guest columnist



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for the San Mateo Daily Journal. She is a licensed and ordained minister and through the organization His Gospel Ministries, she serves the homeless of the community,



helps connect students in need with technology resources to help with schoolwork, and provides Biblical counseling services for people going through difficult times in their lives. In addition to these activities, Lorrie serves as a Personnel Commissioner for the Alameda County Office of Education. Lorrie completed her undergraduate degree in Communications at the (then) California State University, Hayward. She completed her graduate work in Organizational Development and Human Resources at the University of San Francisco. In addition to her CCTO certification, she is



also a graduate of the District Administration Leadership Academy. In her personal life, Lorrie is a classically-trained pianist, but is also adept at playing gospel music by

ear. She is married to Rev. Dr. Robert Owens, who is also a licensed and ordained minister, a retired network security executive, and Lorrie's ministry partner. They have also partnered in raising two of their nine grandchildren, Antonio and Leonard. Antonio is a newly-wed, a licensed minister like



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his grandparents, an educator and an author. He holds an undergraduate degree from an UC school; his second Master's degree was also from a UC school. Leonard is an undergraduate at a UC school and was a highly recruited football player out of high school. Lorrie and Bob, who until recently were avowed dog-only pet parents, are now the devoted cat mom and dad of Yang, Abel and Soi. When Lorrie retires, she plans to devote her time fully to her ministry, her grandchildren, and her cats.