

Meet the Staff

CAROL DIEDRICHSEN

As one of the state “shepherds” for the Center on Innovation’s *Indistar* online school improvement system, Carol Diedrichsen serves Oklahoma and North Dakota. The shepherds keep their eyes and ears open to what’s happening in the states so that all the states can benefit from each other’s practice. To this end, she communicates regularly with her state contacts and the other shepherds.

Carol knows the state department landscape well, especially that related to federal programs and the overlapping requirements on schools and districts for improvement. She was a principal consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education for 17 years, visiting individual schools for quality reviews and overseeing Illinois’ regional system of support providers charged with assisting schools and districts with their improvement plans and the review and feedback process. She worked with districts in corrective action and schools planning their restructuring and its implementation. In this role, she was fortunate to work with staff throughout the state department of education, coordinating support for—and pressure—on the neediest districts and schools. She was also on the state team when Illinois was a Pacesetter state and developed Rising Star.



Carol Diedrichsen

Carol majored in speech communication, English, and drama at the University of Illinois–Champaign/Urbana, and taught high school English, speech, and drama for 17 years in Wisconsin and Massachusetts, directing 3–5 productions a year. She has an M.A. in critical and creative thinking from the University of Massachusetts–Boston.

Retirement from the state department has given her the chance to serve more closely with schools and children particularly with ***Amigos en Cristos Ministries*** in Juarez, Mexico, with staff that serves materially poor children and their families in After School and Open School (GED) programs.