



The world leaders in innovation and creativity will also be world leaders in everything else.

Harold R. McAlindon

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Dear Colleague,

Despite ice, snow, drought, and repeated visitations of the polar vortex, the work of providing quality education to our students continues.

Registration for the **Fourth Annual Indistar Summit** for state Indistar users and their comprehensive center liaisons is open until March 7, 2014. The conference will be held **March 23–25, 2014**, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is being co-sponsored by the **Bureau of Indian Education** and the **South Central Comprehensive Center**. The theme of this year's event is "Quality Implementation and Measurable Results." To register for the Summit, click [here](#).



I urge you to familiarize yourself with [CIL's invaluable resource database, Resources for Leaders of Change](#), which contains numerous vetted, recent research articles on the following topics: change and innovation, personalized learning, students with disabilities, learning environments, and data use and analytics. Searches can be directed by topic, subtopic, or by typing in a keyword. Click on the link above and add it to your favorites.

Janet Twyman and Allison Cream Davis, CIL staff, will be on-site to continually update everyone on the important findings and events at the **SXSWedu Conference and Festival**, being held in **Austin, Texas, on March 3–6, 2014**. Follow Janet's and Allison's CIL tweets [@Centerilorg](#) for the thoughts of the conference's most energetic and innovative education leaders.



Indistar News

Shepherd Stephanie Benedict facilitated training for the **Southeast Regional Comprehensive Center (SERCC)** in Biloxi, Mississippi. She presented an introductory session, "What is Indistar?" which included navigation of the online tools, state capacity and usage, implementation, and review of the additional options/features. Participants included

SERCC's **Beth Howard-Brown**, project director, and **Robin Jarvis**, program director. Also participating from SEDL were **Jason LaTurner**, **Crystal Darby**, **Heidi Goertzen**, **Shirley Carraway**, **Glenda Copeland**, **Don Doggett**, **Debbie Meibaum**, and **Robin Madison-Harris**.

The "Golden Parka Award" goes to Indistar shepherd Lois Myran, who has recently traveled to Idaho, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Lois, with the assistance of CIL's Indistar specialist Maureen Richel, met with **Idaho's** Wise Ways 10-member leadership team, lead by **Greg Alexander**, to review the Wise Ways tool's vision, education framework of effective practices, and the features of the state administration page. Wise Ways provides an evidence-base literature review for the Indistar indicators.

Lois also introduced **Minnesota's** Northern Star—that state's version of Indistar—to **Betsy Ziemer** and **Dwayne Strand** of the state leadership team and to continuous improvement coaches and SIG school principals new to the process. The team discussed successful implementation strategies of the 26 states using Indistar. In addition, Lois visited **South Dakota** to assist the Indistar LEAP team, including **Shawna Poitra** and **Heather Hoak**, with a new state feedback review process. The process is being used in 55 focus and priority schools in **Pierre, South Dakota**.

Meet the CIL Staff

I invite you to peruse the biographical sketch of this month's featured staff member, **Larry Kugler**. And take a moment to look at a selection of new **e-sources** recently added to the CIL database.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Murphy
Director

Meet the Staff

Larry Kugler

Indistar Specialist



Larry Kugler assumed the role of Indistar "shepherd" after a 35-year career as an educator, bringing with him extensive classroom and administrative experience. Before joining the CIL Indistar team, he taught elementary and Title I high school students and also served as a reading specialist in the Fairfax, Virginia, County Public Schools (FCPS). As an administrator for FCPS—one of the largest and most diverse school systems in the country—Larry coordinated the district's Reading Recovery and Title I programs; for the latter, he initiated a professional development program that enabled a shift from a pullout model to an inclusion model. As coordinator of NCLB programs for FCPS, he provided professional development in data-informed decision making, led the development of a comprehensive school audit process, and served as the elementary representative in the development of a systemwide data enterprise system.

In addition, Larry coordinated a 2-year summer reading research study for Harvard University and has presented at numerous conferences. He has been a member of Phi Delta Kappa and the Reading Recovery Council of North America.

After retiring from FCPS, Larry consulted for the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center, and authored, among other projects, a self-assessment rubric for Delaware as part of that state's effort to improve the district-level strategic planning.

When not working, Larry volunteers as president of Congregation Adat Reyim, a synagogue in northern Virginia. In addition, Larry has provided literacy training for five years in a rural primary school in South Africa, and, with his wife and many volunteers in Virginia, created a library of 23,000 trade books, available to both the school and the entire community.