

Meet the CIL Advisory Board

DONNA CASTLE RICHARDSON

Donna Castle Richardson serves as the director of the Central Comprehensive Center and the technical assistance manager of the South Central Comprehensive Center, both funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The centers provide technical assistance to build the capacity of the state departments of education in Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, and Oklahoma to support districts and schools in the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

In addition, Dr. Richardson serves as the director of the Educational Technical Assistance Services (EDUTAS). EDUTAS is a collaborative technical assistance network that supports interactive communication and collaboration, and focuses on education initiatives that seek to advance program growth and development through research-based TA services. She began her teaching career as a television Romper Room teacher in southwest Oklahoma. She taught kindergarten and first grade in Oklahoma City Public Schools. She served as assistant and associate professor of Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she developed a Title XX child care training program.



Dr. Richardson is a professor emeritus of education at Oklahoma City University (OCU). During her 20-year tenure at OCU, she held a variety of leadership positions in its Department of Education: chair of education, residency year coordinator, and teacher certification officer. She designed the undergraduate early childhood program and served as the coordinator of the early childhood and elementary education programs. She was the founder and executive director of the Family Education Institute for Research and Training. She has been recognized nationally for the Teaching for Success model.

Dr. Richardson's recent research has addressed family literacy and program development in emergent reading. She conducted family literacy research on the Even Start project in Oklahoma City Public Schools. That project's research and program design were validated by the U.S. Department of Education's National Diffusion Network and disseminated nationally. In 1999, her Reading Discovery Tutor Training program was highlighted for exemplary practices in the U.S. Department of Education's document *So That Every Child Can Read...America Reads Community and Tutoring Projects*. From these two programs, she has developed the program *Reading Discovery: The Family Adventure*. She recently published her first children's book, *The Teeny Tiny Tadpole*.