

Meet the Staff

MARK WILLIAMS

Technical Advisor

Mark Williams provides expertise to the Center on Innovation in career and technical education and is part of CIL's team managing the professional network of *Indistar* users in IndistarConnect; he also provides expertise on educational technology for the center.

Mark is the vice president for institutional advancement at CIL's partner organization, the **Academic Development Institute**, where he is responsible for working with state and district partners to provide research, training, and tools for leadership and supervision of rapid district and school improvement.

A former high school teacher, Mark served as the Illinois state director for career and technical education from 2005 to 2012, during which time he received several awards for his contribution to career and technical education (CTE) and exercised national leadership in organizations dedicated to CTE and the promotion of college and career readiness. For Illinois, he oversaw the policy and programs relating to secondary CTE, as well as alignment of K-12 career awareness, exploration, and development. He has worked extensively with Illinois's Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Business Roundtable, including the Illinois Innovation Talent Initiative that linked high school students with industry scientists, engineers, and experts in real world projects. He was also one of the three original designers of the Illinois Pathways Initiative, which partners business and industry with the world of public education to enhance the educational experiences of young Illinoisans.

Mark holds a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from the University of Chicago, and a master's degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome, Italy.

When not managing the constant activity and continual crises of a family of eight children and five grandchildren, Mark enjoys reading, the history of WWII aviation, flying model aircraft, and keeping his 1986 Porsche in drivable condition. He and his wife Cilla host a monthly charity classic car "Cruise Ins" for the Optimist Club of Delavan, Illinois.



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