

2014 LESN RECOGNITION AWARD

CONNIE STEFFEN

*Policy Analyst, Utah Office of Legislative Research
and General Counsel (OLRGC)*



"Connie Steffen is at the top of her profession. She sets the standard for other policy analysts in the state of Utah as well as for others in the profession around the country."

The Legislative Education Staff Network is thrilled to present Connie Steffen, policy analyst at the Utah Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel (OLRGC), with the 2014 LESN Recognition Award. Nominated by Utah's Associate General Counsel Angela Stallings and endorsed by Utah Senator Aaron Osmond and Michael Christensen, Director of the OLRGC, it is clear that Connie has made a significant difference in education in Utah.

Connie has been a policy analyst at the OLRGC for 30 years and has spent much of that time working on education. She has staffed the House Education and Senate Education Standing Committees, the Education Interim Committee and several task forces that focused on issues such as funding, charter schools, testing and school vouchers. She has drafted hundreds of complex bills for dozens of legislators. Without question, she is considered one of the most knowledgeable education analysts in Utah.

As a former school teacher and economist, Connie's experiences provided the OLRGC with important statistical and cost-benefit rationality to education issues. As Christensen says, "Because of Connie, educational policy analysis in Utah is much sharper and more incisive."

Connie's dedication and commitment to the legislative process is recognized by all who work with her. She is known for:

- ★ Being politically neutral
- ★ Her high integrity
- ★ Trustworthiness
- ★ Innovative policy ideas
- ★ Composure during stressful times
- ★ Breadth of knowledge.

Senator Osmond attributes his success as a legislator to Connie who has supported the work of so many others who respect and trust her.

"Connie has successfully maneuvered through many stressful and demanding political situations... What I appreciate most about Connie is that she consistently remains calm, collected, positive and respectful to all, yet is able to remain empowered and strong in her role, even in such challenging social situations that only occur in a legislature. This is truly impressive to me and a reflection of the great professional that she is as an education policy analyst for our state."

Thank you, Connie for your service to Utah. Congratulations on 30 years at the OLRGC and congratulations on your retirement. But as legendary basketball coach Abe Lemons says, "The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off."