

DONNA REED

Donna Reed was an Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) state area supervisor for approximately for 14 years. Her specialty area was secondary programming with a strong focus on students with learning disabilities. One of her greatest accomplishments was the work she did at the ADE with Special Show, a biannual conference that offered professional development geared toward the needs of educators who served students with disabilities and their families. The conference was her brainchild, and she served as conference chair from 1986 until her death.

Donna was known as a quiet, but, persuasive leader. She had the ability to calmly convince her colleagues to do the "impossible". Her leadership was crucial as the ADE, Special Education Unit tackled the development of programs for the 3 to 5 age group, initiated Medicaid billing, challenged schools regarding overrepresentation including disproportionality of minorities, initiated transition from school to work, and many other issues that were undertaken during her tenure. Donna was well respected by district special education administrators for her knowledge and thoroughness. She could always be counted on to share her knowledge of special education regulations and procedures in a professional manner. Donna was also known for advocating for the rights of ALL children with disabilities.