

Joann Starks

Joann Starks, M. Ed., served as a senior technical assistance consultant at American Institutes for Research (AIR) from 2015-2025. Starks worked with the Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (2012-2025) and from 2010-2020 with the Center on Knowledge Translation for Employment Research. Both Centers are funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. She also serves as Co-chair of the Disability Coordinating Group of the international Campbell Collaboration (2017-present). Starks was awarded the John Westbrook Award for Contributions to Knowledge Translation by Campbell in October 2020.

Her primary responsibilities included online training in topics such as assessing research evidence and conducting high-quality systematic reviews, and planning workshops, webcasts, and conferences on topics related to knowledge translation, evidence synthesis, and disability and rehabilitation research. She has made multiple presentations at national and international colloquia and conferences. Her expertise covers a broad range of issues and supports for individuals with disabilities, including employment and independent living, as well as special education services and support for communities of practice.

Starks previously was involved with research and dissemination activities of the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (1995-2011). She earned the Knowledge Translation Professional Certificate through the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children in 2014. She holds an M.Ed. degree in Social/Multicultural Foundations from the University of Colorado at Boulder and completed doctoral level work at The University of Texas at Austin in special education administration.