

Ames Named TAESE Associate Director

Sue Reeves

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Norm Ames

Norm Ames has been named an associate director at the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), a project of Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities.

Ames was the associate director of the Mountain Plains Regional Research Center, but that project ended on October 1, 2014 after 30 years in operation. The MPRRC was the largest project associated with TAESE until the new Utah Professional Development Network began last July.

"The MPRRC is what generated TAESE," Ames said. "John (Copenhaver, TAESE director) took what the RC was and made it into TAESE."

When the federal funding for the RRCs was lost, two new centers were developed: The National Center for Systemic Improvement and the Center for Integration of IDEA Data. Many of the RRC employees lost their jobs, a few

were picked up by other projects elsewhere, and Ames, Shawna Crane and Wayne Ball remained at TAESE and are working on the new projects.

Ames officially began his new duties on Dec. 1, 2014. He provides technical assistance to school districts and state offices of education in South Dakota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Montana and Utah, along with some added supervisory responsibilities.

"TAESE is building a legacy of technical assistance for our clients that represents the CPD extremely well," Ames said. "We are now spoken of in the same breath as the big conglomerates like WestEd and Westat."