

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jon Schmidt

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Civics Education Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-050

Jon Schmidt, a faculty member at Loyola University's School of Education, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 3, 2020 Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio/Digital Video

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:40 / 1.67 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (2/18/2021).

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Transcript being
processed

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Abstract

Jon Schmidt, *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A -2020-050

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Jon Schmidt was born in Hong Kong 1962 where his father was running a Lutheran School. Jon's family returned to the United States, living in St. Louis and Omaha. Jon graduated from Omaha Central High School in 1980. He earned a BA in international economics/humanities at Valparaiso University in 1984. Jon's work experience includes Community Family Life Services in Washington DC, Evangelische Akademie in West Berlin, a research assistant at Northwestern University, director of Alternatives Inc, and the founder and director at the BOLD Chicago Institute. In 2002 Schmidt began working at the Chicago Public Schools as the director for Democracy, Education and Student Leadership. In 2014, Jon was employed by Loyola University as service learning manager for the Center of Experimental Learning. In 2016 he became a clinical faculty member for the School of Education. At Loyola, Jon teaches courses on 'Teaching and Learning in Urban Communities,' 'Teaching, Learning, and Leading for Social Justice,' 'Community Power and Social Change,' and 'Community Organizing and Social Change.' Jon is also the Editor of *Student Perspectives About Civic Engagement*.

Schmidt discusses social studies education at Loyola University, Chicago. He examines the format of having pre-teachers work in schools during their freshmen to senior years. He looks at the various civic education projects which existed in the Chicago public schools even before the state-wide Civics education law took place. Service learning was a graduation requirement implemented during the tenure of Paul Vallas as the district's Chief Executive Officer. He also reviews some of these CPS efforts and partnerships including the BOLD Institute (1997-2002), Democracy Education, the Global Citizenship Initiative, Student Leadership project (2002-14), and the Democracy School project. He also discussed the Senn-Loyola journalism (news literacy) project and looked at the challenges presented COVID-19 restrictions of 2020, which led to Loyola and Chicago Public Schools going to remote learning.

Headings/Key Words: BOLD Initiative for Civic Engagement; social studies and education major requirements at Loyola University; Senn-Loyola Project (Journalism); civics education in the Chicago Public Schools 2002-2020; remote learning during COVID-19 lockdowns; Democracy Schools; Global Citizenship Initiative

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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