

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Christopher Busse

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Civics Education Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2019-091

Christopher Busse, a social studies and civics teacher at O'Fallon Township High School, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education in Illinois - Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov 19, 2019 Location: O'Fallon Township High School, O'Fallon IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:29 / 1.48 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 4, 2020. The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Christopher Busse, *Education in Illinois – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2019-091

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Christopher Busse was born in Evanston, Illinois in February 1968. He grew up in Downers Grove, graduating from Downers Grove North High School in 1986. In high school, Christopher was in the band and played basketball and soccer. He then attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, graduating with a BS degree in secondary education and political science. He later obtained an MS degree in curriculum and instruction from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Busse obtained his first teaching position at Brown County High School in Mt. Sterling, Illinois. He then taught at Normal Community High from 1991-1995. He moved to the Metro East area, first working at Belleville Township High School and then at O'Fallon Township High School since 2009. Christopher has also been a trainer for the McCormick Foundation, working with teachers as he discusses ideas on teaching civics in high school. Christopher also serves as social studies department chair at his high school.

Busse examines how a large metro-east high school near Scott Air Force Base taught civics both before and after the new Illinois state mandate. In this discussion, he addresses interdisciplinary approaches, service learning projects, and controversial topics. Busse also reports on how O'Fallon High School became a Democracy School and how social studies courses are sequenced (civics in the freshmen year, government in the senior year). In addition, Christopher looks at professional training for civic teachers, his implementation of Illinois new 2017 Social Studies Standards, becoming a Democracy School, promoting news literacy, and the vast number of on-line resources available for civics teachers.

Subject Headings/Key Words: teaching civics in Illinois before and after the 2014 state mandate; Democracy School; civics service projects; McCormick Foundation civics initiatives; 2017 Illinois Social Studies Standards; O'Fallon High School

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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