

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Julie Donner

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

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-003

Julie Donner, a civics teacher at Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, Illinois, 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: Jan 8, 2020 Location: Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:00 / 1.0 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 16, 2020.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Julie Donner, *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2020-003

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Julie Donner was born in Chicago Illinois in January, 1981. She grew up in Mundelein Illinois and attended Santa Maria del Popolo Elementary School and Carmel Catholic High School. While at Carmel, Julie participated in soccer and volleyball, as well as student council, and many school clubs. Julie graduated from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, majoring in history and secondary education. She earned a masters' degree from Concordia University, Chicago, majoring in curriculum and instruction. She worked for three years at Guerin Prep (River Grove) and one year with AmeriCorps, serving in Appalachia. In 2007 she joined the faculty at Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein and at the time of the interview worked in the social studies department. She also sponsored the Democracy School and was Sophomore Class Moderator for the Student Council.

During this interview Julie examines how Civics Education, a state required high school semester course, is being taught at Carmel Catholic High School. Civics had been a longtime course at Carmel and is now being taught during the senior year. Christian service hours (100) had already been required as a graduation requirement prior to the civics mandate on service projects. Donner discusses simulations being used at Carmel, including mock trial, mock elections, service projects and letter writing to veterans. She also uses news analysis, current events discussions, citizenship activities, discussion of local issues and issues in civil rights while using primary documents when possible. Instruction also includes a study of the branches of government. Julie discusses the unique situation where Carmel Catholic serves over 100 feeder middle schools, including some from Wisconsin. Finally, she explains the Democracy School Application and Reapplication process.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Carmel Catholic High School; Christian Service projects; civics education at Carmel Catholic High School; becoming a Democracy School; teacher training for civics instruction

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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