

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kathleen Kelly

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

Interview # EH-A-L-2019-100

Kathleen Kelly, Ph.D., formerly Deputy Director, Academic Affairs, at the Illinois Board of Higher Education, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Higher Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: September 6, 2019

Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential
Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Kathryn Mahaffey, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Indexed by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 40:05 + 25:09 / 0.67 + 0.42 = 1.09 hrs

Session 1: Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Ed 1980's – 1990's

Session 2: Higher Education in Sangamon County, IL 1850 - 1950

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 24,
2020.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, Illinois.

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Kathleen Kelly, *Education is Key*, EH-A-L-2019-100

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Kathleen Kelly was born March 21st, 1944 in Lake Forest, Illinois. Kathleen graduated from Quincy University in 1966, majoring in medical technology. She met her husband Dennis while in college. Kathleen continued her education at Sangamon State University (SSU) (now University of Illinois at Springfield) while working part-time in various positions: physician office assistant, medical insurance clerk, and lab technician. She completed her M.S. degree in health administration in 1979. That same year, Kathleen began work for UIS as their Continuing Education Coordinator. While working at UIS, Kathleen entered a Ph.D. program in higher education administration at Illinois State University. Her academic interests were issues faced by non-traditional students: access, affordability, and barriers to degree completion. In order to gather data for her dissertation, Kathleen contacted the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). There she met Dick Wagner (Exec Dir) and Bob Wallhaus (Dir, Academic Affairs). Impressed by her work, they offered her a job. She completed her Ph.D. in 1985. Kathleen began as an intern at the IBHE in 1984, and was promoted over time to Assistant Director, Associate Director and Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, retiring from the IBHE in 1999. Afterwards, Kathleen conducted consulting projects in higher education for other states. Kathleen researched the early history of higher education in Sangamon County after retiring from consulting.

Subject Headings/Key Words: *A Nation at Risk*; nursing degree ladder in Illinois; standardization of university general education requirements; Illinois Articulation Initiative (I Transfer); Illinois Board of Higher Education Academic Affairs staff; degree granting authority; University budget review; Priorities, Quality and Productivity (PQP) Program; Illinois State University (in Springfield est. 1852); Robert Lincoln College; Carthage College; Bette Stuart Institute; Concordia Theological Seminary; St. John's College; Springfield College in Illinois; Abraham Lincoln University Foundation Fund; Lincoln College of Law.

Note 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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