

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jennifer Foster

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-Alternatives in Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A_L-2018-074

Jennifer Foster, Deputy Director for Illinois High School Equivalency at the IL Community College Board, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Date: Nov 19, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:27 / 1.45 hrs.

Interview being
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Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 19, 2019.

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

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Abstract

Jennifer Foster, Alternatives in Education, EA-A-L-2018-074

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jennifer Foster was born in Decatur, Illinois in January 1965. Jennifer attended Decatur schools and graduated from McArthur High School in 1983. Jennifer also worked in social agencies as a youth counselor. In 1983 she earned a BA degree in business and marketing from McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois. She later did graduate work at the University of Illinois-Springfield. After graduating from McKendree, Jennifer returned to Decatur and taught adult education classes at Richland Community College in from 1989 thru 2000. In 1997, she also served as the Homeless Director for Dove Inc. in Decatur. In 2000, Jennifer moved to the Illinois Community College Board, representing the area of adult education. At the time of the interview she served as the board's Deputy Director. Her duties include oversight of the Lincoln's Challenge Academy, which serves students who had dropped out of school. The academy in Rantoul is a 5+ month program.

Foster discusses the Illinois High School Equivalency program, which allows those seventeen years old and older an opportunity to earn a high school diploma equivalency. Jennifer talks about the role of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), the Regional Offices of Education, and the local public school districts in that process. She also looks at the three tests approved by the ICCB, including the General Educational Development Test (GED), the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC). She discussed the policies for testing, the minimum passage standard, the state and local fees for testing and the process for approving transcripts and credentials. Foster discussed the Illinois requirement to pass a U.S. Constitution, Illinois Constitution and flag test. A discussion on the number taking the tests, passage rate, and comparisons to a high school diploma were reviewed. Finally, she noted that a fourth way of earning a certificate - a transcript review by the Regional Offices of Education followed by completion of courses to make up for any deficiencies.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate; General Educational Development Test (GED); Illinois Community College Board (ICCB); High School Equivalency Test (HiSET); Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC); Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC); Illinois legislative statute governing high school equivalency; Regional Offices of Education (ROE);

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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