

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Mary Klingenberger

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

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-020

Mary Klingenberger, President of Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, 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.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Apr 10, 2018 Location: Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:24 / 1.4 hrs.

Interview being  
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 11, 2018.

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

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## Mary Klingenberger, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-020

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Mary Klingenberger was born in Chicago, Illinois in May 1957. She graduated from Mother McAuley High School in 1975, where she had been involved in student government and many volunteer/service groups. After high school, Mary attended St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, majoring in Economics Homastic Studies, graduating in 1979. She later earned a Master of Business Administration from DePaul University. Following graduation, Mary worked with BMO Harris Bank at several locations (Chicago and Hinsdale), including as Regional President, Chief Credit Officer, and Division Administrator ((1979-2007). In 2009, she was Director of Gift Planning for Adventist Hospital, serving there until 2013. In 2013, Mary became President of Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School. In this capacity, she was involved in the development of a five-year strategic plan, as well as the scholarship program. She also worked directly with the school's leadership team. In addition, Mary has donated her time to many other civic institutions. In 2014, she was awarded the Alumna Achievement Award by St. Mary's College.

In this interview, Mary reviews the long history of Mother McAuley dating back to its days in Dublin, Ireland (Catherine McAuley) and then to Mother Frances Xavier Ward and the Sisters of Mercy. A school for girls began in Chicago in 1846. The Great Chicago Fire in 1871 led to a new school called Saint Xavier Academy, eventually residing at various Chicago locations. In 1960 Mother McCauley (now renamed) was relocated to its current location in the Evergreen Park neighborhood of Chicago. Also, on that site are St. Xavier University, Brother Rice High School (all boys), a retirement community for Mercy Sisters, and ball fields. In 2018 the school had 900 girls in grades 9-12, who came from 144 grammar schools. Klingenberger covers the school's curriculum (liberal arts/college prep and religious classes), its philosophy and mission, student tuition and scholarship availability, and school operations. She explored the advantages and challenges of being a single gender, parochial school located in Chicago. She also discussed the important role the school's alumnae (26,500) play, its nineteen athletic state titles (water polo, swimming, volleyball), its relations with St. Xavier University, and school governance.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, Chicago, Illinois; Mother McAuley High School building and grounds; St. Xavier University; Catherine McAuley; Mother Francis Xavier Ward; Brother Rice High School; Sisters of Mercy Retirement Community; parochial single gender schools; scholarship programs for parochial schools

**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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