

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Stacy Stewart

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

Interview # EA-A-L-2019-029

Stacy Stewart, the principal at Belmont-Craigin which uses the personalized learning model, 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: Jun 5, 2019 Location: Belmont-Craigin Elementary, Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:35 / 1.58 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 2,
2019.

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

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Abstract

Stacy Stewart, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2019-029

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Stacy Stewart was born in Chicago, Illinois in February 1970. She attended Chicago Public Schools, graduating from Hyde Park Academy in 1987. She attended Tennessee State University in Nashville, majoring in business administration, and graduated in 1991. She then returned to Chicago, where she worked in the private sector (Metropolitan Life). Because of an interest in teaching, she returned to school, earning first a master's degree in urban teaching from Concordia University, River Forest, and then a master's in educational leadership from the American College of Education. Stacy taught in Chicago Public Schools for seventeen years before spending ten years in administration. She has served as principal at Belmont-Craigin for the past five years, during a time when the school moved into personalized learning. In 2018, Stacy received the Golden Apple Leader of Distinction Award.

Stacy discusses how personalized learning has become the instructional model for Belmont-Craigin, a K-8 Chicago public school located in northwestern Chicago. She explains how the five years under this model includes defining personalized learning and its philosophy. The program included fifteen months of professional development for teachers, the regular yearly support from Leap Innovations, and the teaming and scheduling required. Stewart describes what is happening in the school regarding learning, the role parents play in the process, the importance of involving students in their own learning, and the ongoing assessing of student progress. She shares stories related to student leadership, and the communication she has had with pre-k students coming into the school as well as future feeder high schools. Finally, she discusses the changing role of the teacher needed for this model.

Subject Headings/Key Words: personalized learning model of teaching; Belmont-Craigin Elementary School (K-8); summer programs for students;

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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