

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Stephanie Marshall

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

*Education is Key – Educational Reform Act of 1985*

Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-030

Dr. Stephanie Marshall, the CEO/President of the Illinois Math Science Academy from 1986-2007, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key- Educational Reform Act of 1985* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 27, 2014 Location: Illinois Math Science Academy, Aurora, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 2:01 / 2.03 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 18, 2014.

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

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# Abstract

Stephanie Marshall, *Education is Key*, E85-A-L-2014-030

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Stephanie Marshall was born in the Bronx, New York in 1945. At the age of eight she moved to Long Island and graduated from East Meadow High School in 1963. She earned a BA from Queens College in New York City, an MA from the University of Chicago, and a PhD from Loyola University in Chicago. Stephanie began her career as an Elementary teacher for the Alsip (IL) School District. She later worked at the Naperville District #203 as a Curriculum Specialist and then on to Batavia eventually being the Superintendent of Schools. In 1986, she became the CEO/President of the newly created Illinois Math Science Academy in Aurora, Illinois. She served in this capacity until her retirement in 2007. She now serves as the President Emeritus at the Academy. Dr. Marshall has been the author of over 40 published journal articles and in 2006 published *The Power to Transform: Leadership That Brings Learning and Schooling to Life*. This book earned a 2007 Educators Award from the Kappa Gamma Society International. Stephanie was inducted into the Lincoln Academy of Illinois and in 2012 was appointed by the Governor to be a Trustee of the Lincoln Academy.

This interview details the development of the Illinois Math Science Academy in unsuccessful legislative efforts (1984) to its inclusion in the 1985 Educational Reform Act. Stephanie discusses the legislative parameters which created a residential facility in the Fox River Valley for students grades 10-12. She discusses the phased start of the school (one grade added each year for three years), the development of the curriculum, the selection process for students, the hiring of the staff, the organization of the residential halls, the unique schedule including intersession and off site research Wednesdays, the extra student activities, and the creation of a learning environment. Dr. Marshall also discusses the partnerships with business/industry, higher education, community colleges, and the schools throughout Illinois.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** STEM learning [Science, Technology, Environmental, Math]; formation of the Illinois Math Science Academy 1984-1986; creating residential school for grades 10-12; the history of the Illinois Math Science Academy through 2014; the 1985 Educational Reform Act; the nationwide climate for Reform in the 1980's

**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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