

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kenneth “Buzz” Shaw

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

Interview # EH-A-L-2020-005

Kenneth “Buzz” Shaw, Ph.D., formerly President of Southern Illinois University’s Edwardsville campus and later Chancellor of the Southern Illinois University (SIU) System, 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: January 17, 2020 Location: Dr. Shaw’s home in Rochester, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Kathryn Mahaffey, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:39 / 1.65 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 10, 2020.

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

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Abstract

Kenneth Shaw, *Education is Key*, EH-A-L-2020-005

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Kenneth A. ‘Buzz’ Shaw is a nationally respected administrator and educator. He was born in Granite City, Illinois in January 1939, and grew up in Edwardsville, Illinois where he played basketball in junior high and high school. He continued playing basketball at Illinois State University (ISU) where he obtained a B. S. degree in 1961. Following graduation, Shaw taught history at Rich Township High School in Park Forest, Illinois and in 1963 earned an Ed.M. degree from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. While in Park Forest he met his wife, Mary Ann. Dr. Shaw went on to earn a Ph.D. at Purdue University, then returned to Bloomington, Illinois where he served as assistant to the president of ISU. In 1969 he moved east and became Vice President and Dean of Towson State University. In 1977 he returned home and became president of Southern Illinois University’s Edwardsville campus. In 1979 he was offered the Chancellor job at SIU, a position that expanded his authority over all SIU campuses. He left SIU in 1986 when he was offered the opportunity to become president of the University of Wisconsin system overseeing twenty-six campuses. In 1991 he left Wisconsin and became Chancellor and President of Syracuse University in New York, where he led a comprehensive re-structuring process. Retiring in 2004, Dr. Shaw taught leadership at Syracuse for seven years before returning to Illinois and working with the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) from 2005 to 2019.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1956 Edwardsville High School basketball team; Edwardsville IL park desegregation; Southern Illinois University (SIU); E.L. Alexander, Superintendent of Public Schools, Edwardsville, IL; Robert Bone, President of Illinois State University; Jim Fisher, President of Towson State University; increasing racial diversity in colleges; State Senator Sam Vadalabene; Best of our Kind; Build Illinois; Rich McClure, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Jim Thompson; Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE); University of Wisconsin; Syracuse University re-structuring 90’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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