

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Nichole Heyen

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

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-075

Nichole Heyen, principal of the Springfield School District's Lincoln Magnet 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.

Date: Nov 20, 2018    Location: Lincoln Magnet School, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:31 / 1.52 hrs.

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

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## Abstract

### Nichole Heyen, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-075

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Nichole Heyen was born in Park Ridge, Illinois in September 1977. Nichole graduated from Maine South High School in 1995 and then earned a BS degree in education and psychology from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois. While at MacMurray, Nichole played softball and participated in cheer and dance. She also was active with the College's Student Association. Nichole was later selected to the MacMurray Sports Hall of Fame. Nichole began working for Springfield District #186 in 1999 and was still there at the time of this interview. Her first assignment was at Lee School from 1999-2001, teaching 3rd grade and then serving in the truancy program. In 2001 Nichole moved to Lincoln Magnet School, teaching language arts to 6th graders. During the next two years she taught at Harvard Park School, and earned a MA degree in educational administration from University of Illinois-Springfield in 2003. In 2004, she returned to Lincoln Magnet and has remained at the school ever since, teaching language arts, serving as an administrative intern, and then as a guidance counselor. In 2009 Nichole became the school's principal. While at Lincoln, Nichole received the Terrel Bell Award from the U.S. Department of Education, the Horace Mann Administrator of the Year Award in 2014, and the 2018 National Beta Sponsor of the Year Award. She also has presented at many state and national conferences.

This interview focuses on Springfield School District #186's Lincoln Magnet School (Grades 6-8). The school serves 320 students. Nichole covered the school's mission and philosophical objectives (academic excellence, development of inquisitive outlooks, being global citizens, and developing life-long learners). She also discussed the integrated role of technology, the real-world applications and projects, and the many partnerships that exist to assist in these projects. Other topics covered included student eligibility/lottery, parental involvement, the school's curriculum, electives and advanced classes, teacher selection and professional development, and the advantages and challenges of being a magnet school. Nichole talked about extra-curricular activities and clubs, and the 100-year-old building site as well as its recent and possible future modifications.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Lincoln Magnet School, Springfield, Illinois; student eligibility for magnet schools; use of technology in magnet schools; magnet school partnerships with businesses, governmental agencies and non-profits; teacher selection for magnet schools

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