

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Priscilla Palmer

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Oral History project

Interview # DST-A-L-2017-049

Dr. Priscilla Palmer, Testing Specialist at Richland Community College and charter member of Springfield Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter (SDAAC), was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 23, 2017 Location: Palmer home in Decatur, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Yvonne Singley, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:06 / 1.1 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 24, 2017.

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

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Dr. Priscilla Palmer, *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority*, DST-A-L-2017-049

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Priscilla Palmer was born on October 4, 1953 in Brownsville, Tennessee. She was one of two children when her family moved from Tennessee to Decatur, Illinois. Shortly after the move, her mother divorced her father and married her stepfather, Mr. Y.T. Palmer. Priscilla attended and graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in 1971. After high school, she enrolled at Eastern Illinois University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1974. While at EIU, she pledged with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Theta Zeta Chapter. She continued her studies at Eastern and received a Master Degree in Education in 1975, and was certified as an elementary teacher and reading specialist. She also holds a Specialist Certificate in Administration (1986). In 1996, Palmer enrolled at the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana, where she earned a doctoral degree in educational organization and leadership.

Dr. Palmer started her career as a teacher in the Decatur Public School District, and later moved into administration in that same district. She left Decatur for Urbana, Illinois, where she served as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in the district. As a result of her administrative capabilities, she later received offers and assumed other positions in school administration as Superintendent of Prairie-Hills Elementary School District (suburban Chicago), Assistant Superintendent of Posen-Robbins School District (suburban Chicago), and Superintendent in the South Holland School District. She also worked at various colleges and universities, including at Saint Xavier University as an assistant professor, DePaul University as an adjunct professor, and the University of Phoenix as an online professor. Currently, she serves as adjunct professor and Testing Specialist at Richland Community College.

Since the chartering of the Springfield Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter, Dr. Palmer has played a significant role in helping meet the mission and goals of the chapter. She has served on several committees, including Delta GEMS, Scholarship, Program Planning, Heritage & Achieves, LaPetite Delta, and Membership. In 1993-1995, she became the President of SDAAC. During her tenure, she hosted the Statewide Delta Weekend, which included Delta Days at the Illinois State Capitol and the Statewide Founders Day Weekend. She led the chapter in working with the local Habitat for Humanity in the area. Currently, she serves as an alumnae advisor for Kappa Zeta Chapter, a collegiate chapter at Millikin University.

Dr. Palmer has committed her time to numerous boards and civic organizations in the Decatur community, including the Decatur Public Library Board, Boys & Girls Club Board, and Decatur Limitless, a conglomerate of local organizations that support the youth, families and elderly residents.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Theta Zeta Chapter

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