

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gerald (Jerry) Binder

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

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-014

Gerald Binder, administrator at Whiteside Area Career Center who discusses the school's history and mission, 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.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Mar 19, 2018 Location: Whiteside Area Career Center, Sterling, IL

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.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 29, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Gerald Binder, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-014

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Gerald (Jerry) Binder was born in March 1956 in Mallnette, Wisconsin, near La Crosse. He graduated from Mallnette High School in 1974 where he was active in sports, including basketball, baseball, and football, as well as fine arts. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 1979, majoring in physical education. Following graduation, he became a teacher/coach in La Crosse. Leaving there, Jerry did similar duties at Cuba City, Wisconsin. After two years at Cuba City, Jerry was employed as a teacher, coach and administrator at Holmen High School (Wisconsin). He also earned double masters at both UW-La Crosse and Winona State in Minnesota. After his thirteen years at Holmen, Jerry moved to Sterling, Illinois where he served as principal for another thirteen years, as well as the Director of Human Resources for seven years at the Whiteside Area Career Center. At the time of the interview he was Director of Development at Whiteside.

Binder reviews the history of the Whiteside Area Career Center (WACC) dating back to its creation by seven public school districts and one parochial school in 1966. The Center was the first area vocational center in Illinois. Currently, the Center supports school districts from five counties: Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Bureau, and Carroll, involving around twenty high schools. The WACC houses between 600-700 students, grades 11-12, who are enrolled in twelve different programs. Binder also covers the Center's philosophy, its relations with local industry and local community colleges, the role of dual credits, its building expansion and its joint use by the community college, equipment upgrades, the WACC agreement with the school districts, tuition costs, teacher certification, internship and apprenticeship programs, and post-graduation opportunities. Finally, he talks about the advantages that such a career center has for its students as well as challenges that the career center faces.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Whiteside Area Career Center (WACC); joint agreements for public and parochial schools with career centers; dual credits between career centers, community colleges and local industries; career center uses of internships and apprenticeships; equipment upgrades for career centers; teacher certification

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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