

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James (Jim) Kinsella

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Alternatives in Illinois Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-058

James Kinsella, a pioneer in Illinois in on-line learning at the secondary level via the Illinois Virtual 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.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 18, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield,
IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:38 / 1.63 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 20,
2019

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

Interview being
processed

© 2018 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

James Kinsella, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-058

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jim Kinsella was born in Chicago, Illinois. The family moved to the suburbs during his high school years, and he graduated from (LaGrange) Lyons Township High School. Jim then attended Southern Illinois University. After college he served a tour in South Vietnam. Upon returning home, he then worked for an automobile business while attending night classes at a variety of local area colleges and community colleges. Eventually, Jim earned both a BA and MA degree from Loyola University in Chicago. Entering the teaching field, Jim taught at Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling, Illinois, at Gordon Tech in Chicago, and the University High School in Normal, Illinois. While at University High he was exposed to on-line learning. In 2001 Jim became a teacher for the newly created Virtual Learning High School. He has been with the school for the past seventeen years. Jim also has been a trainer for on-line learning and has presented at many conferences on this topic.

Kinsella discusses the history of the Illinois Virtual School since its creation in 2001, which was first administered by the Illinois State Board of Education, then the Illinois Math-Science Academy and now by the Peoria County Regional Office. He explained how teachers teach on-line, communicate with students in discussion groups and one-on-one, assess student performance, and involve parents. In addition, Kinsella talked about the technological and on-line teaching changes over a seventeen-year period, and shares some of his favorite stories, including ones involving students in other countries as part of the class.

Subject Headings/Key Words: history the Illinois Virtual School (2001); teaching government and history on-line; Illinois State Board of Education; Illinois Math-Science Academy; Peoria Regional Office; changes in teaching strategies and technology since 2001;

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955

