

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John Bickford, PhD

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

Interview #ECE-A-L-2019-088

John Bickford, an Associate Professor at Eastern Illinois University and chair of the Institutional Review Board, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key--Civics Education* Oral History project.

Date: November 12, 2019 Location: Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:43 / 1.72 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.

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

John Bickford, *Education is Key*, #ECE-A-L-2019-088

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: John Bickford was born in Silver Springs, Maryland in 1976. He grew up in upstate New York, where he attended his first year of high school. His family then moved to Hyde Park, New York, and later Endwell where Bickford graduated from Endwell High School in 1995. John then attended the University of Iowa where he earned a BA in History in 1999 and an MA in Secondary Education in 2000. In 2009, he earned a PhD from the University of Iowa in the field of Social Studies Education. John taught in Iowa at Hubbard Radcliffe and Midprairie for a total of nine years. In 2009, he joined the faculty at Eastern Illinois University. At the time of the interview, John served as an associate professor and chair of the Institutional Review Board. John has also served as an editor on the *Councilor: A Journal of the Social Studies*.

In this interview, Bickford explains how Eastern Illinois University prepares elementary and middle school teachers to deal with the new social studies standards in teaching civics education. He also discusses the amount of pre-teaching experience they receive in the classroom prior to student teaching, types of school service projects, and ways to include primary sources in the classroom. He also talks about the importance of social studies in elementary schools, including using the interdisciplinary approach. Illinois's teacher shortages are reviewed, including how Eastern Illinois is helping to combat the issue.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois state social studies standards; elementary and middle school social studies; Illinois teacher shortage; online classes; service projects for elementary/middle school students; social studies education

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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