

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dean Cantù, Ph.D

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

Interview # ECE-A-L-2019-077

Dr. Dean Cantù, director of the Department of Education at Bradley University, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Oct 30, 2019      Location: Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:50 / 1.83 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 26, 2020.

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

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## Abstract

### Dean Cantù, *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2019-077

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Dean Cantù was born in Savanna, Illinois in September 1961. He grew up in Mt. Carroll, Il a small town in northwest Illinois. He graduated from Mt. Carroll High School in 1979, then went to Highland Community College in Freeport, where he earned an Associate Degree. Dean earned a Bachelor of Science in engineering degree, majoring in social studies education from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro in 1981. He earned an MA in History from that school in 1983. While at Arkansas State Dean was enrolled in the ROTC program, then served as an officer in Military Intelligence both at Ft. Huachuca and Ft. Knox from 1984-88. Dean then returned to Arkansas State and taught history, while also earning an Ed.S. degree in community college education in 1989. He taught at St. Genevieve High School in Missouri and served as the social studies chair until 1998. While at St. Genevieve, Cantù earned his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (1997) in curriculum instruction. Dr. Cantù then took a position at Ball State in Muncie, Indiana, first as an assistant and then associate professor of history and social studies from 1998-2006, and from 2002-06 he was also the director of Social Studies Education. After two years at Indiana University-Kokomo, in 2008, he joined the faculty at Bradley University as chair, professor, associate dean, and director of the Department of Education, Counseling, and Leadership. Dr. Cantù is also the Executive Director of the Illinois Council for the Social Sciences. He also serves as the editor of the *National Social Science Technology Journal* and is a member of the Illinois Social Science Standards Task Force.

Cantù discusses the social studies education program at Bradley University, including social studies methods (primary sources and analyses), the amount of in-school pre-teaching requirements during the four years at Bradley and the earning of bilingual endorsements. Cantù talks about the role of the Illinois Council of Social Studies and its 2019 Theme-Building Bridges as it coordinates with English instructors. He reviews the new Illinois social studies standards, the importance of social studies and civics education, the use of technology in social studies education, and how civics instruction was implemented at an area high school. Finally, he looks at the shortage of social studies teachers nationwide.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** college requirements for social studies teachers; Implementing the new Civics Education law; Illinois Social Studies Standards; Illinois Council for the Social Studies

**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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