

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Walter Zaida

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key-Community College* Oral History project

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-031

Walter Zaida, a life-long teacher and administrator at Joliet Community College, discusses the history of the first public Jr. College. He was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Community College* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: Joliet Junior College

Date: April 22, 2013

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman and Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

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

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# Abstract

Walter Zaida, *Education is Key-Community College, EC-A-L-2013-031*

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Walter Zaida was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1931. He graduated from Crivitz High School in 1949. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree and an MS degree from the University of Wisconsin in agricultural education and began his teaching career at Joliet Township High School in 1954

In 1961 he moved to Joliet Junior College, serving there until 1986, except for a two year study leave at UCLA [the University of California, Los Angeles]. While at Joliet Junior College, he held positions as assistant to the dean, dean of student services, vice president of informational resources/student services, vice president for academic affairs, and interim president. His interview reviews the development of Joliet Community College from 1901-1986, and the role of J. Stanley Brown, Dr. L.W. Smith, and E.W. Rowley in the school's development. He also discusses the impact of the Junior College Act of 1965, the agricultural program, the impact that two world wars, the Vietnam War and domestic issue had on the school and the referendum approving the college and the building construction projects.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** community college; Joliet Jr. College; J. Stanley Brown; Dr. L.W. Smith of Joliet; Joliet Township High School; impact of World War I, World War II and Vietnam on Joliet Jr. College; Junior College Act of 1965; Joliet Jr. College agricultural program; strikes at Joliet Community College

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