

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Stephen Hunt, Ph D

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

Interview # ECE-A_L-2019-057

Dr. Stephen Hunt, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Public School Funding Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 13, 2019 Location: Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPLM volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:33 / 1.55 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 26, 2019.

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

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Abstract

Stephen Hunt, *Education in Illinois – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2019-057

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Stephen Hunt was born in Coffeysville, Kansas in January 1969. He graduated from Phil Kinley High School in Colleyville in 1987 and earned a debate scholarship to Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas, graduating in 1992 with a major in speech communications. Stephen earned an MA degree in 1994 from the University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls), majoring in instructional communication and communication education. He then took a position at Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) as a teaching assistant and assistant debate coach. He earned his Ph. D. at Southern Illinois University in 1998 with an emphasis on instructional communication/communication education and then joined the faculty at Illinois State University serving as an assistant/associate professor and co-director of basic course, becoming the associate director for the School of Communication in 2008, professor and interim executive director for the School of Communication until 2016, and served as professor and executive director for the School of Communication at the tie of this interview. Dr. Hunt has been active with the American Democracy Project Civic as well as the National Center Urban Ed Project and is a Fellow for Political Engagement (American Association of State Colleges and Universities). He has authored and edited several communication textbooks. In 2008, Dr. Hunt received the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Service Award.

Dr. Hunt reviews projects relating to civics education at Illinois State University. Among these are the National Center for Urban Education project, the National Democracy Project, courses in political engagement, and a news literacy course. In addition, Illinois State University works with other state universities to create teams that assist with civics education. Dr. Hunt reviews Illinois State's four majors in Communication: Communication Studies, Mass Media, Journalism, and Public Relations. He discusses ethics in communications along with challenges facing those in the field. He talked about reliable sources for fact checking along with academic freedom issues. An Honors Seminar, looking at the 2016 campaign was discussed, along with a major political climate survey at the University. Illinois State University requires all freshmen to take a public speaking course with an emphasis on persuasion and information, as well as a group project. Stephen also talks about involving Heartland Community College in developing a civics engagement transfer project.

Subject Headings/Key Words: civics education at the college level; National Center Urban Education; National America Democracy project; Illinois State University; Communications education at Illinois State University; Illinois State-News Literacy Class; teacher team training for civics education; Heartland Community College

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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