

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Richard Wagner

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

Interview # EH-A-L-2018-082

Dr. Richard Wagner, former Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Higher Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 19, 2018 & Jan 23, 2019 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Kathryn Mahaffey, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:15 + 2:02 / 1.25 + 2.03

Session 1: Building Capacity in Illinois Higher Education; 1969 to early 1980's

Session 2: System Enhancement and Quality Performance; mid-1980's to 1998

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 24,
2019.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Richard Wagner, *Education is Key*, EH-A-L-2018-082

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Dr. Richard (Dick) Wagner was born on February 10, 1938 in Eureka, Illinois. Dick grew up in Chenoa, Illinois and is the son of Ezra and Lorene Wagner. He went to college at Bradley University, earning a Bachelors in Psychology in 1960. At Bradley he met and married Judy Block from Knoxville, Illinois. After earning his bachelor's degree, Dick and Judy moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where Dick earned two degrees at the University of Pittsburgh, an MPA in 1961 and a Ph.D. in 1967. After obtaining his Ph.D., Dick worked for the University of Maryland for three years.

Dr. Wagner returned to Illinois with his family in 1969 working for six weeks in the new Bureau of the Budget, an entity created by Governor Richard Ogilvie, followed by a six-week internship with state Senator Russell Arrington. In this role, Dick provided staff support to the Senate Republican leader during the passage of Illinois' first income tax. He then joined the staff of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) that same year, 1969, as Deputy Director for Fiscal Affairs. From 1975 to 1980 he served as the IBHE's Deputy Executive Director and in 1980 was appointed Executive Director. He is the longest serving head of the IBHE since its creation in 1961. Dick retired from the IBHE in 1998. Dick and Judy are parents to four children, Judson, Whitney, and twins Peter and John.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois Board of higher Education (IBHE); Illinois higher education growth 1960's; Illinois Board of Higher Education staff; Campbell Report on health education needs in Illinois; IBHE review of academic programs; creation of Heartland Community College; Lincoln Land Community College; Oakton Community Colleges; standardizing transfer credits in Illinois higher education; Illinois Board of Higher Education Act; IBHE science and technology capital funding; Illinois Higher Education Reorganization Act of 1995; Measuring Up 2000: A State by State Report Card for Higher Education.

Note 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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