

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. William Benton (Ben) Whisenhunt

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

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-049

Dr. Ben Whisenhunt, a history professor, explains the history and development of one of the state's largest community colleges, the College of DuPage. 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 date & location:

Date: May 15, 2013 Location: College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Susan Burke, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman & Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 23 Total Time: 1:07 / 1.12 hrs

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

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Abstract

Dr. Ben Whisenhunt, *Education is Key-Community College*, EC-A-L-2013-049

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Ben Whisenhunt was born in Murray, Kentucky in 1968. He graduated from Wayne High School (Nebraska), and earned a BA from Cornell College in Iowa in 1990, an MA from the University of Nebraska in Omaha, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1997. Dr. Whisenhunt's parents were also career educators. His father, Donald, was a college professor and administrator, while his mother, Betsy Ann, taught English. Dr. Whisenhunt began teaching at the College of DuPage in 1992. In 1997 he became a fulltime professor at the college. Dr. Whisenhunt specializes in Russian history. This interview covers the history of the College of DuPage from 1966-2006, based on Dr. Whisenhunts' research of the college and his own teaching there, from 1992 to 2013. His story includes the early beginnings and the influence of Roy DeShane and Lyons Township High School.

Subject Headings/Key Words: College of DuPage; Roy DeShane; Lyons Township High School; Junior College Act of 1965; ALPHA I; Cluster College System; Honors Program; Kent State and student protest at the college;

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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