

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Stanley Ikenberry

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

Interview # EH-A-L-2021-014

Stanley O. Ikenberry, former President of the University of Illinois from 1979 to 1995, 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: April 26, 2021      Location: Telephone interview, Ikenberry residence/  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Kathryn Mahaffey, ALPL Volunteer

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

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

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 3:58:26 / 3.97 hrs.

Session 1: University of Illinois System 1979 to 1995 & 2009-10

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 7, 2021.

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

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## Abstract

Stanley O. Ikenberry, *Education is Key*, EH-A-L-2021-014

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Dr. Stanley Ikenberry is the longest serving President of the University of Illinois to date. Born in Lamar Colorado in March 1935, he spent most of his youth in West Virginia where his father was President of Shepherd College and his mother was active in the community. He earned his undergraduate degree at Shepherd College and his master's and Ph.D. at Michigan State University (MSU). He worked at MSU for two years before joining West Virginia University (WVU) as Assistant Provost for Institutional Research. He later became Dean of the new College of Human Resources and Education. In 1969, Stan moved to The Pennsylvania State University where his first administrative role was Senior Vice President for Development and Relations. He later served as Senior Vice President for Administration before departing for Illinois.

During his Presidency at Illinois, which began in 1979, he led the consolidation of the Medical Center and the opening of the Chicago Circle campuses, now the largest research university in the metropolitan area. Initiatives on the Urbana-Champaign campus included the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. He also led two highly successful capital campaigns and worked to improve the quality and diversity of the student body with the establishment of the Presidential Scholars program. He was president during the Chief Illiniwek controversy. In 2009 Dr. Ikenberry returned to Champaign to serve as the interim President for the 2009-2010 school year. In 2008 the Board of Trustees honored Stan and his wife Judy by naming a new dining and residence halls complex after them – Ikenberry Commons.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Medical Center and Chicago Circle merger; Beckman Institute; U. IL capital campaigns & fundraising; National Center for Supercomputing Applications; the Science and Technology Center for Superconductivity; Illinois Presidential Scholars Program; Chief Illiniwek; Governor Jim Thompson; Gov. Jim Edgar; Illinois legislature; Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE); the University of Illinois at Springfield; the Higher Education Reorganization Act of 1995; interim university president (2009-2010); Ikenberry Commons; leadership in 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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