

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Lyndon Wharton

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Educational Reform Act of 1985 Oral History
project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-027

Dr. Lyndon Wharton, an educator who worked for much of his career in the Illinois Department of Education's Office of Public Instruction, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Educational Reform Act of 1985* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Ag. 19, 2014 Location: Telephone interview held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Springfield, Il

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:18 / 1.3 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 25, 2014.

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

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Abstract

Dr. Lyndon Wharton, *Educational Reform Act of 1985, E85-A-L-2014-027*

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Lyndon Wharton was born in Edgewood, Illinois in March, 1935. He graduated from a newly reorganized high school, Edwards County, in 1953, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Illinois Teachers College in 1956, an MA from Northern Illinois University in 1966, and a PhD. from Southern Illinois University in 1978. He began his teaching career at Herscher in 1956 in the field of English. He then entered the army for three years serving in counter intelligence. Upon leaving the army he returned to teaching and later counseling at Woodstock and then at Wheeling District in 2014. While working on his doctorate, he served as Principal at Carbondale High School. Lyndon had two terms with the Department of Education, serving in the Office of Public Instruction, first from 1966-70 and returning in 1973-91.

This interview covers the educational reform movement in the 1980's to make changes nationwide in K-12 schools, plus prekindergarten. Dr. Wharton, as a Curriculum leader in the State Board of Education, discusses the implementation and strategy used to implement some of the 169 educational reforms which passed the General Assembly and was signed by Governor Thompson in 1985. He reviews the planning, training, and challenges presented, and how the State Board of Education worked with local school districts, regional educational labs, and various universities. Dr. Wharton also indicates how some of the reforms and programs changed from 1985 to his retirement in 1991. He details his responsibility with Learner Goals, Local Assessment, the Administrators Academy, Teacher Evaluation, the Educational Service Centers, and the Prekindergarten at Risk Program. Mr. Wharton passed away on June 24, 2017.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Educational Reform Act of 1985; School Improvement Plans; state assessment in reading and writing; State of Illinois Learning Goals and Learning Objectives, grades 3, 6, 8, and 10; Illinois Educational Service Centers; Illinois Administrators Academy; Prekindergarten at Risk; Ted Sanders, IL State Superintendent;

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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