

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Richard 'Dick' Wagner

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

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-100

Dr. Richard (Dick) Wagner served with the Illinois Board of Higher Education from 1969 to 1998, eighteen of which he served as its Executive Director. Dr. Wagner 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 dates & location:

Date: November 11, 2013 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:10 / 1.17 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 8, 2014.

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

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Abstract

Dr. Richard Wagner, *Education is Key-Community College*, EC-A-L-2013-100

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Richard (Dick) Wagner was born in Eureka, Illinois in 1938. He graduated from Chenoa High School in 1956, and earned a bachelor of arts degree from Bradley University in 1960 and a MA and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburg (1961 and 1967). In 1969 he joined the staff of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, where he served in a variety of capacities, including as deputy director of the Fiscal Department, and then its director. In 1980 he became the executive director of the Board of Higher Education until his retirement in 1998. As Executive Director, he worked on higher education programs, fiscal accountability, performance, articulations, building programs, and policy issues for four year institutions (public/private) and two year community colleges.

Dr. Wagner covers the growth of Illinois's community college movement from 1965-1998 and its relationship to the overall 'Higher Education Plan for Illinois.'

Subject Headings/Key Words: Early history of Illinois's community college system, 1965-1975; relationships with the community college and Illinois Board of Higher Education; challenges of fiscal and program development plans; role of community college and higher education; role changes of the Board of Higher Education Board from the capacity days of 1965-1975

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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