

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Grant Miller, PhD

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

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-058

Grant Miller, coordinator for Curriculum and Assessment at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 25, 2020 Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:23 / 1.38 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 1, 2021.

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

Transcript being
processed

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Abstract

Grant Miller, *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2020-058

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Grant Miller was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1974. He graduated from high school in Neodesha, Kansas in 1993. While in high school, Grant took part in theater, forensics, debate, band, photography, and the yearbook. Grant then attended Missouri Southern State University (Joplin) and earned his BA degree in 1998. Later, Grant later obtained an MA from Missouri State (Springfield), and a Ph.D. from Boston College in 2007. While at Missouri Southern and Missouri State, Grant earned acting scholarships. Dr. Miller's interests include social studies education, universal design for learning, and sheltered instruction. His work experiences include teaching elementary and middle school social studies. Dr. Miller later joined the faculty at Southern Illinois University. Carbondale. There he has served as Associate Professor, a coordinator for Curriculum and Assessment, and a co-project director on a National Science Foundation Grant. His teaching at SIU-C includes elementary education curriculum, public school social studies methods, and action methods research. Dr. Miller has also been involved with the Library of Congress Primary Documents project.

This interview examines the social studies education students receive at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Dr. Miller discusses teaching and assessing with primary sources, artifacts and media, educating with evidence, historical thinking, and place-based learning. He also talks about requirements for social studies education, on site pre-teaching school experiences, and the slow increase of education majors following a major decline. Dr. Miller also looks at the way the school prepares social studies education majors in Illinois's 2017 Social Studies Standards and its new civics mandate for middle and high school. This includes the movement toward inquiry as well as the teaching of controversial subjects. Finally, Dr. Miller discusses the impact of going remote at SIU-C in mid-March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and plans for the fall term due to the pandemic: 40 percent remote, 30 percent in house, and 30 percent hybrid.

Subject Headings/Key Words: social studies education at SIU-C; primary sources in social studies education; place-based learning; new Illinois Social Studies Standards (2017); remote learning during COVID-19 pandemic; teaching of controversial subjects; Universal Design and Sheltered Instruction

Notes 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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