

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kathy Villano

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

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-047

Kathy Villano, Director of the Center for Teaching and Resources at Arlington Heights, Illinois, 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:

November 25, 2014      Location: Elgin Community College, Elgin, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:28 / 1.47 hrs

Transcript  
being processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 26, 2015.

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

© 2014 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

# Abstract

Kathy Villano, *Education is Key*, E85-A-L-2014-047

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Kathy Villano was born in Davenport, Iowa in 1957. She attended parochial schools, and graduated from Assumption High School in (1975). She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Mary's College, in Notre Dame, Indiana and then a degree from National-Louis University in school psychology in 1986. In 1991 she received an Administrative Certificate, and in 2013 an ESL Certificate. Kathy started her career as a music teacher at Marquardt School District #15 in Glendale Heights, Illinois. She later worked at Wilmette School District #39 and then Community Consolidated School District (CCSD) #54. In 2015 she was working as the Director at The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning in Arlington Heights, where she first served as a school psychologist. Her responsibilities as Director included overseeing a six district cooperative providing preschool programs, implementing staff training, networking with other early childhood partners, offering parental programs and training, operating federal early childhood programs, coordinating with the local school districts, screening of early childhood children, and participating on state early childhood committees. The Center has received recognition as an ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality program. The FIND program has received the Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement award.

This interview covers the development and growth of Illinois's early childhood programs which were started as part of the 1985 Education Reform Act. The interview reviews the expansion of services through the Prekindergarten at Risk program, the Parental Training Program and the Prevention Initiative. Also, covered are the changes made to state programs via the Early Childhood Block grant (1988) and the Preschool for All Children program (2006). Also covered in the interview is the networking required and the coordination with federal grant funding. Thus, the interview discusses the legacy of early childhood started in 1985 and its progression. Also reviewed are the challenges presented in Illinois by the increasingly diverse children population and the state's stagnant funding status.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** 1985 Education Reform Act through 2014; early childhood education in Illinois; Preschool for All; the Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning; Early Learning Council in Illinois

**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.

## **COPYRIGHT**

**The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**