

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Cathy Kloss

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

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-085

Cathy Kloss discusses the history of Prairie State College (1967) and its forerunner, Bloom Township Junior College. She 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: September 26, 2013 Location: Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Bonnie Bruns, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman & Janice Culp, ALPL Volunteer

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Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 26, 2013.

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

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Abstract

Cathy Kloss, *Education is Key-Community College*, EC-A-L-2013-085

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Cathy Killian Kloss was born in Chicago in 1950. She graduated from Notre Dame High School for Girls in 1968, and in 1972 earned a bachelor's degree in English from Northern Illinois University. Prior to working at Prairie State, Cathy worked for a major U.S. railroad, served as an elementary school publicist, and hosted a cable television show. In 1996, she was employed by Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, Illinois, a south-side suburb of Chicago. (The school was first established in 1967.) She began working at the Student Life Center, then was the executive director of the foundation and most recently, as director of development and special projects. Both her late husband, Lester Kloss, Jr., and son Andrew attended Prairie State College. Her father-in-law, Lester Kloss Sr., served as a Prairie State trustee and board chair.

Kloss discusses the history of Prairie State College in detail, as well as the school's relationship with the community.

Subject Headings/Key Words: History of Prairie State College (1967-2013); relationship with Bloom Township Junior College (1957-1966); building construction of Prairie State College; trends in enrollment and college make-up; great events at Prairie State College.

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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