

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Teresa Kruger, EdD

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

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-056

Dr. Teresa Kruger, the social studies curriculum coordinator for Belvidere High School, 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 17, 2020 Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:21 / 1.35 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 26, 2021.

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

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Abstract

Teresa Kruger, *Education is Key - Civics*, ECE-A-L-2020-056

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Teresa Kruger was born in Galena, Illinois in 1970. She attended Elizabeth High School in Elizabeth, Illinois, participating in sports with students from nearby Hanover High School. The two districts later merged, becoming River Ridge. Teresa graduated with a BS degree in 1993 from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, majoring in social science education. She earned an MA in teaching from Rockford University in 2002, and an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from Northern Illinois University in 2012. Her dissertation topic was on the use of controversial issues in secondary social studies. Dr. Kruger began her teaching career at Lena-Winslow High School followed by River Ridge High School. After eight years Dr. Kruger began teaching at Belvidere North High School, where she worked at the time of this interview. She is also an instructional coach and social studies curriculum coordinator. In addition, she has been the regional representative for the Illinois Council of Social Studies and also a Civics Education Mentor serving Boone-Winnebago Counties.

Dr. Kruger looks at civics' education at Belvidere North High School through the viewpoint of a civics education mentor for the region. Topics discussed include content for the senior government (Civics) course, service-learning projects, teaching controversial subjects, and simulations used in some cases provided by non-profit organizations such as the Mikva Challenge. Kruger also discusses the civics training provided by Civic Mentors, the McCormick Foundation, Stony Brook University, and the local Regional Office of Education. Other topics covered included the impact of Illinois's new 2017 state social studies standards, which led to changes found in the curricula for grades 6-12. She addressed civics training for middle school teachers and the scope of the social studies courses found at Belvidere North, including a new American Studies course (English/Social Studies), the content of U.S. History based on four themes, and the Performance Assessment standards being used at the High School. Finally, Dr. Kruger looks at how teachers transitioned to remote learning in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and plans for remote learning for the first quarter 2020-2021.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Belvidere, Illinois School District; training teachers for Civics Education; Illinois's 2017 Social Studies Standards; media literacy; remote learning during COVID-19 pandemic; non-profits organizations promoting civics education; Mikva Challenge;

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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