

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Brenda Holmes

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Agriculture in Illinois Oral History project

Interview # AI-A-L-2011-027

Brenda Holmes, serving at many levels of education throughout her career including an appointment to the Illinois State Board of Education, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – School District Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 29, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 59:42/ .99 hrs

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Aug 3, 2011.

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

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Abstract

Brenda Holmes, Agriculture in Illinois, AI-A-L-2011-027

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Brenda Holmes was born on October 21st, 1947 in Charleston, Illinois, and is a native of Charleston, IL. She is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University. She started her career as a teacher of history and government at Pawnee High School, IL. After 13 years of teaching she received a legislative internship. She then worked on the staff of the Senate Republicans from 1983-1987. Next, She joined the State Board of Education working in governmental relations from 1988-2000. Later she served as the governmental relations lead lobby for the Illinois Management Alliance from 2000 to 2003. This group monitored legislative activity on Education. For 13 months, she served as the First Deputy for Education for Governor Rod Blagojevich. Finally, she was named by Governor Rod Blagojevich to the State Board of Education serving four years.

Holmes was involved with the 1985 Educational Reform Act, which called for reorganization hearings and plans being developed throughout the state of Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: school reorganization; state incentives; school construction; Educational Reform Act of 1985; Nation at Risk; dual/unit school districts; State Board of Education House Bill 1216; reorganization methods

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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