

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sara Wolforth, J.D.

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

Interview # ECE-A-L-2019-081

Sara Wolforth, J.D., an Illinois Civics Task Force member, 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; Oct 23 2019 Location: Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:27 / 1.45 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 11, 2020.

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

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Interview being
processed

Abstract

Sara Wolforth, Illinois Civics Education, ECE-A-L-2019-081

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Sara Wolforth was born in Marshalltown, Iowa in 1977, and grew up in Medina, Ohio, graduating from Medina High School in 1995. She earned a BS degree from Vanderbilt University in the fields of cognitive studies/English in 1999. Sara then earned a J.D. degree from Washington University St. Louis in 2002. Her law experiences included Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom LLP from 2002-2004 and Chapman and Cutler LL from 2004-2005. After three years practicing law, Sara became a teacher at Providence-St. Mel High School and Providence-Englewood Charter School (grades 4-5). She earned an MS degree in education from Northwestern University in 2008. Sara worked as a policy associated for REL Midwest, Learning Point Associates from 2008-2010, and in 2011, she became senior policy analyst for Learning Point Associates, followed by the same type of position for American Institutes for Research (AIR). At the time of the interview she was co-director for the State Support Network of AIR. During her time with the Illinois Civics Task Force from 2011-13, Sara served as director of the Midwest Comprehensive Center. Sara's work includes state school improvement projects, research on policy initiatives, teacher and leader effectiveness, implementing college and career ready standards, turning around low performing schools, parent involvement, and extended learning. Sara has published articles on these subjects as well as provided professional presentations throughout the U.S.

Wolforth talks about the Civics Education Task Force of 2013-14, and its involvement with the Midwest Comprehensive Center, a non-profit agency federally funded research organization that provides technical support for state and local district initiatives. This assistance included research in what other states were doing on civics providing education and those resources needed for the task force working groups. She also examined the help needed in keeping the task force completion schedule compact so it would meet its objectives, including public hearings and providing guidance at the meetings when needed.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Civics Education Task Force; Midwest Comprehensive Center; Governor's Civic Task Force (Illinois); Illinois State Board of Education; objectives of civics education; revised Social Studies Standards

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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