

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Donna Kiel, EdD

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

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-044

Dr. Donna Kiel, the Director of the Office of Innovative Professional Learning at DePaul University, 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: July 24, 2020

Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:02 / 1.03 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 25, 2021.

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

© 2020 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview being  
processed

## Abstract

### Donna Kiel, Education is Key – Civics; ECE-A-L-2020-044

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Donna Kiel was born in Chicago, Illinois in October 1959. She graduated from Lourdes Catholic High School in 1977, and then attended the University of Illinois-Chicago, graduating in 1981 with a BA in psychology. Donna earned a MA in counseling from Concordia Chicago in 1992 and an EdD from Northcentral University in 2013. Her work experiences included teaching, counseling, and serving as an assistant principal at Queen of Peace High School in Burbank, Illinois), before becoming principal as well as coaching and director of curriculum at St. Joseph High School in Westchester, Illinois, and later principal at South Beloit High School. In 2013, Donna joined the faculty at DePaul University as the Director of the Office of Innovative Professional Learning. While at DePaul, one of her innovative projects includes Citizen U, operated by the Barat Educational Foundation. Dr. Kiel teaches curriculum and instruction, secondary education, assessment, data driven decision making and middle grades literacy.

Dr. Kiel reviews Citizen U and its use of primary sources from the Library of Congress. She also discusses the use of Civics Micro Credentials offered through professional development. Other Library of Congress programs are discussed, including CARES (creating authentic responses and engaged learning in a remote situation) and RISE (reflection, inquiry, self-awareness, and empathy). She goes through Citizen U sample lessons and the specific skills being taught to facilitate civics education. Some examples include bullying lessons, equity discussion, service projects and citizen literacy. The work of the Office of Innovative Professional Learning at DePaul was also reviewed. In addition, Dr. Kiel talks about the impact of going to remote learning after March 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Citizen U curriculum; Citizen U and the Library of Congress; RISE (reflection, inquiry, self-awareness, and empathy); CARES (creating authentic responses and engaged learning in a remote situation); impact of COVID-19 pandemic; remote learning due to pandemic of 2020; Office of Innovative Professional Learning, DePaul University; teaching media literacy; teaching controversial topics

**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.

## 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**