

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Naomi B. Lynn

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

Interview # EG-A-L-2016-057

Dr. Naomi B. Lynn, President of Sangamon State University, Chancellor of University of Illinois at Springfield, Interim President of Lincoln Land Community College, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Nov 17 & Dec 1, 2016, July 27, 2017

Location: Lynn home, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carol Esarey. ALPL volunteer

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

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

**Transcript  
being processed**

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:18 + 1:35 + 1:37 / 1.3 + 1.58 + 1.62 = 4.5 hrs

Session 1: Influences in her early life leading to career in higher education

Session 2: Experiences in higher education in Kansas, Georgia and Illinois as a minority woman

Session 3: Transition from Sangamon State to the U. of Illinois-Springfield, a four-year institution

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 14, 2018.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

## Abstract

Naomi B. Lynn, *Education is Key*, EG-A-L-2016-057

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Naomi Burgos Lynn, born in New York City in 1933, was the daughter of Puerto Rican parents who emphasized the importance of education to their children. Naomi attended Maryville College, where she met and married Robert Lynn in 1954. She received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Kansas, then served as a Professor of Political Science and Department Head at Kansas State University. In 1988 she became the Dean of the College of Public and Urban Affairs at Georgia State University. From 1991 to 2001 Naomi served as president of Sangamon State University (SSU), the first Hispanic woman to be president of an American public university. She played a significant role in the merger of SSU with the University of Illinois in 1995 (at which time SSU was renamed the University of Illinois at Springfield) and later when UIS changed to a four-year institution, serving then as the Chancellor. She also served as the interim president of Lincoln Land Community College. Naomi is a champion of women's rights and became a leader and mentor for women and minorities in academia and the larger community. She served as President of the American Society for Public Administration, the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, and the Women's Caucus for Political Science.

Lynn has authored several books including: *The Fulbright Premise: Senator J. William Fulbright's Views on Presidential Power* (1973), *A Research Guide in Women's Studies* (1974), and *Public Administration: The State of the Discipline* (1990). She also edited *Women, Politics and the Constitution* (1990). Naomi Lynn was inducted as a Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois and awarded the Order of Lincoln (Illinois's highest honor) by the Governor of Illinois in 2012.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Sangamon State University; University of Illinois at Springfield; transition from SSU to UIS; transition of UIS to a four-year institution; women in Higher Education; Hispanics in University administration; Women's Studies programs; education & public administration;

**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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