

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kori Hockett

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

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-035

Kori R. Hockett, the principal at Wheaton Academy, a private Christian based school, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 15, 2018 Location: Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:01 / 1.02 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 22, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Kori Hockett, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-035

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Kori Hockett was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in November 1973 and attended Carlisle High School, graduating in 1992. While in high school Kori competed in basketball and track and was also involved with the Model UN, Science Olympiad, choir, and youth groups. She then attended Wheaton College, majoring in Political Science and playing basketball for four years, graduating in 1996. Kori then worked and coached at Wheaton College from 1996-2000. In 1998 she worked at the College Church, also in Wheaton, for three years. This led to an interest in teaching and course work at Aurora University, where Kori earned an MA degree in teaching and learning. In 2000, she joined the faculty at Wheaton Academy where she taught world history, American government, US history, geography and honors/advanced placement courses. In 2008, Kori became an assistant principal at Wheaton Academy, and in 2017 she became its principal. Even with all of this, she also found time to coach girls' basketball, serve as Social Studies department head, and be a Student Council sponsor. In 2010, she was selected as Teacher of the Year. Kori has also developed an advisory curriculum used in a variety of schools, including Wheaton Academy.

In this interview Hockett reviews the current structure of Wheaton Academy (grades 9-12). The school has approximately 650 students who come from areas around Wheaton as well as ten percent being foreign students. She discusses the school's curriculum, academics, Winterims (winter interim trips), advisory groups, Living Curriculum teaching, Project LEAD, service learning, and religious studies. Kori reviews the school's philosophy and mission "to nurture growth in our students through relationships, excellence, and service to the glory of God." She also discusses student tuition and scholarship availability, student post graduate work, and the advantages and challenges of being a private Christian school located in DuPage County. The school has a tradition of alumni and parental involvement, with a supportive Board of Trustees. Wheaton Academy is also known for its extracurriculars, including state championships in girls soccer, boys golf, and boys soccer, and its strong musical programs.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Wheaton Academy; Winterim (winter interim trips); Project LEAD at Wheaton Academy; Wheaton Academy Living Curriculum; private religious Christian education; student recruitment/application for a private Christian school; Wheaton Academy international programs; Wheaton Academy campus

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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