

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Michael (Mike) DiNovo

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

Interview #ECE-A-L-2020-007

Michael (Mike) DiNovo, York High School's chair of the Social Studies Department, 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: Jan 27, 2020 Location: York High School, Elmhurst, 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 March 16, 2020.

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

Interview being
processed

© 2020 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Michael DiNovo, *Education is Key-Civics*, ECE-A-L-2020-007

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Mike DiNovo was born in Chicago, Illinois in October 1977. He grew up on the southwest side of Chicago, graduating from Marist High School in 1995. While at Marist he was active in wrestling. Mike then attended Marquette University for one year before transferring to John Carroll College in suburban Cleveland, majoring in history. Upon graduating from John Carroll in 1999, Mike worked at Shepard High School and then for fourteen years at West Aurora High School, where he taught social studies and coached. In 2014, Mike joined York High School in Elmhurst, Illinois, serving as department chair for the social studies department, overseeing its twenty-three teachers. Mike earned a MA in Liberal Studies from North Central College (Naperville, IL) and a Masters' of Leadership from Benedictine University (Lisle, IL).

In this interview, DiNovo examines how the civics education mandate was implemented at York High School, a large western suburban high school. York had already required Government as a required course; the transition involved reviewing how controversial topics could be presented, deciding that current simulations such as mock elections and mock trials would continue, and determining how service projects would tie into classroom instruction. Mike reviews the social studies curriculum at York, which is extensive (requiring three years of social studies), the training provided for social studies teachers to meet the civics mandate, the cross discipline projects conducted with the English Department, and the year and half efforts for the school to become a Democracy High School. York had a history of working with non-profit organizations on social studies and civics projects including Facing History, the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, the McCormick Foundation, and the League of Women Voters. DiNovo also highlights changes in the District's K-12 social studies curriculum due to the new Illinois Social Studies Standards (inquiry emphasis) and the training and review of news literacy/social and digital media.

Subject Headings/Key Words: York High School, Elmhurst, Illinois; York High School Social Studies programs; Democracy High School; professional training to teach civics courses; Regional Office of Education; news literacy; social and digital media

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