

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dawn Earl

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Alternatives in Illinois Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-034

Dawn Earl, the Director of Alumni Relations for Wheaton Academy, 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: June 15, 2018 Location: Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:03 / 1.05 hrs.

Interview being
processed

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

Dawn Earl, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-034

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dawn Earl graduated from Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois-Chicago (then called Chicago Circle). She later earned a Master of Science degree in curriculum and supervision from Northern Illinois University. Dawn's teaching career began in the Valley View SD 365-U with the gifted and middle school program. Later, she became the Curriculum and Instructor Coordinator at BJ Ward Middle School in Romeoville. Following this work, Dawn became assistant principal at Heritage Lakes Elementary. Dawn also was a Board of Education member for Wheaton-Warrenville, SD #200 from 1997 to 2001, served as a district manager for State Senator Peter Roskum. In 2006 she became Director of Alumni Relations for Wheaton Academy, a private non-denominational Christian high school in West Chicago, Illinois. In that role Dawn was heavily involved in the creation of "Celebrating God's Story – 160 Years and Building: The History of Wheaton Academy, 1853-2013."

Dawn reviews the history of Wheaton Academy, which began in 1853 as the Illinois Institute. She discusses its tie with Wheaton College, the creation of the town of Wheaton due to the railroad, the importance of Rufus and John Blanchard, Rev. John Cross, Dr. Prince, the Sears Family, the LeTourneau Family and Owen Lovejoy. The school began with a strong abolitionist philosophy and served as a home for the Underground Railroad during the time of slavery. In 1945, Wheaton Academy moved to its current location at Prince Crossing, in West Chicago. This location had previously been a home for 'crippled children,' therefore, the Academy was able to use the existing buildings for its early operation. Earl talks about all the buildings located on campus and their history, the 1970 amiable split with Wheaton College, famous alumni, and the Academy's philosophy. Finally, she covers the important role parents and the alumni, who are spread throughout the United States, play in the support of the Academy and its students.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Wheaton Academy (formerly Illinois Institute); Wheaton College; West Chicago, Illinois; alumni of Wheaton Academy; philosophy of Wheaton Academy

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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