

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Susan Bentz

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – *Educational Reform Act of 1985* Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-028

Susan Bentz, an Illinois State Board of Education employee with intimate knowledge about the 1985 Education Reform Act and its implementation, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key- Educational Reform Act of 1985* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

August 20, 2014 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:12 / 2.2 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 2, 2014.

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

Transcript
being processed

Abstract

Sue Bentz-1985 Educational Reform Act

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Sue Bentz was born in Chicago, Illinois in August, 1945. She graduated from Chicago Austin High School in 1963, and earned a BA from Northern Illinois University in 1967. In 1974, she earned a MA in Educational Administration from Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois-Springfield). She also did graduate work in history at Northern Illinois University. She started her teaching career teaching 8th grade history at Wheeling, Illinois (Jack London Jr. High School (1967-71)). In 1971 she went to work at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (now Illinois State Board of Education). Sue retired from the State Board of Education in 2000. Her specific assignments included being an Assistant Superintendent in charge of Teacher Education and Certification, and Secretary to the State Teacher Certification Board. Sue had many publications on Teacher Education and Teacher Certification and held many positions with the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, including being President in 1994-95.

This interview covers the historical status of Illinois Teacher Certification starting with the County issued certificates and 60 and 90 day certificates. Sue also reviewed the historical nature of teacher education and the issue of credits earned by prospective teachers, and discussed Commissions and Task Forces developed in the 1970's on topics that led to many of the 1985 Educational Reforms on those two topics. In addition, Sue covers the role of the State Board of Education led by State Superintendent Ted Sanders to make some of these recommendations a part of the 1985 Educational Reform Act. She discusses the actions it took to implement the changes embodied in the 1985 legislation by the 1988 date, the integration of the Chicago teacher certification with the Illinois State Board of Education, and teacher evaluation changes which included remediation. Sue concludes by discussing the legacy of the Reform Act and what ones did not continue in her area.

Subject Headings/Key Words: History of Illinois Teacher Certification and Teacher Education from 1870 to 1985; Educational Reform Act of 1985; changes in teacher education and certification; women/minority scholarships; merit pay pilot programs; administration recertification; bias/gender awareness in education; teacher shortage areas

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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