

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Sherry Eagle

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

Interview # E-85-A-L-2015-008

Dr. Sherry Eagle, Executive Director of the Institute for Collaboration at Aurora University, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 11, 2015 Location: Aurora University, Aurora, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:38 / 1.63 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 7, 2015.

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

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Dr. Sherry Eagle, *Education is Key*, E-85-A-L-2015-008

Biographical Information: Sherry Eagle was born in Sioux City, Iowa in June, 1948. She graduated from Sioux City Central High School and attended the University of Iowa with interests in Math and Music. Moving to Chicago, she then earned a BA in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois-Chicago in 1970. Four years later she later earned a masters degree in reading education from the University of Chicago. In 1994 she earned a certificate in advanced studies-educational administration and in curriculum development from the University of Chicago, and an Ed.D from Northern Illinois University that same year. Sherry began her working career in 1971 as a third grade teacher in Calumet City. She moved to Thornwood High School (South Holland) in 1975, where she worked as a reading teacher and later assistant principal. Moving to West Aurora (School District 129) in 1989, Sherry served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, and for twelve years as the district superintendent. She retired from West Aurora in 2005. At the time of the interview, Sherry was the executive director for the Institute for Collaboration at Aurora University. As a result of that position, Sherry represented the University on the Board of the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School founded on the campus of Aurora University. This School is a cooperative partnership of the West Aurora, East Aurora, and Indian Prairie K-12 School Districts and Aurora University.

This interview details the development of the John C. Dunham STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and math) School which opened in 2014. This interview reviews the legislation, the partnerships involved, the grants and funding sources, the agreement with the public school districts and Aurora University, the selection of students and staff, the costs to operate the STEM school, the curriculum/activities, site selection and building construction, and the professional development for STEM teachers as well as other district teachers.

Dr. Eagle also covers the impact of the 1985 Educational Act reforms and their legacy through her positions as a graduate student, teacher, assistant principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. She talks in particular about schooling/assessment/ accountability, the math science academy, reading improvement, art grants, and scholarships for shortage of women and minorities in administration, and math/science/gifted areas.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1985 Educational Reform Act; STEM learning-Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; Aurora (IL) school districts; funding agreements for the STEM school; Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy; implementation of 1985 Educational Reform Act

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