

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: LaVada Taylor Brandon

COLLECTION: 4700.1612

IDENTIFICATION: Louisiana State University alumna; Professor at Purdue University-Calumet

INTERVIEWER: Mary Sciaraffa

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project – Social Organizations

INTERVIEW DATES: June 27, 2002

FOCUS DATES: 1996-2002

ABSTRACT:

Tape 3197, Side A

Introduction to interview with LaVada Taylor Brandon; she was born February 26, 1969 in Franklin, Tennessee; currently lives in Indiana; she is currently an assistant professor of Social Studies Education at Purdue University-Calumet; turning point in her life as an educator came while dealing with low socioeconomic status students and increasing their literacy; second turning point in her career was during her time at Louisiana State University; oral history project she directed was a wonderful opportunity for her to study oral history as a pedagogical practice; she grew up in Nashville, Tennessee and attended Fisk University; with the oral history project, she felt like a teacher but also learned from the students; helping students gather information from libraries and archives; students interviewed Reverend T.J. Jemison; students created a booklet and a readers' theater out of the interviews; Brandon taught an African American studies course at McKinley High School; that was the only time she taught there; her initial participation in the oral history project was about her own educational goals; collecting the oral histories immortalized the community; Martin Luther King talked to Reverend Jemison about bus boycott; effect of oral history project on McKinley students: they learned about the bus boycott and how to interact with older people; the project influenced the path of her career, she wants students to become a part of the curriculum; she never got any negative feedback from the community about the oral history project; suggests Toby Daspit, a professor at Northern Michigan University, be interviewed; conclusion.

TAPE: 1 (T3197)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 27 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 18 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence; LaVada Taylor Brandon Faculty Page, Purdue

University-Calumet; Inventory; Processing Checklist; “W/Righting History: A Pedagogical Approach with Urban African American Learners” by LaVada Taylor Brandon (20 pgs)

RESTRICTIONS: None.