

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Timuel Black

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key-Community College* Oral History project

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-081

Timuel Black has been an administrator and teacher at the City Colleges of Chicago. He has worked at Loop College (Harold Washington), Olive-Harvey College, and at Wright College. Timuel Black was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Community College* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: Chicago, Illinois

Date: October 1, 2013

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 0:47 / 0.78 hrs

Interview being  
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 20, 2013.

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

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# Abstract

Timuel Black, *Education is Key-Community College*, EC-A-L-2013-081

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Timuel Black was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1918. He was raised in Chicago as his parents moved to the city as part of the First Great Migration. He graduated from Burke Elementary and then Du Sable High School in Chicago in 1935. During the depression he worked various jobs post high school. He was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served two years during World War II. His visit to the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in 1944 had a lasting impact on him. Following the war he served as a labor organizer and participated in social justice movements, including CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and the United Packinghouse Workers of America. He attended Roosevelt University (BA) and earned his Masters Degree from the University of Chicago. Timuel helped organize Chicagoans participation in Martin Luther King's 1963 March on Washington. His teaching career began in the Chicago Public schools (Du Sable, Farragut, and Hyde Park High Schools). His career in City Colleges began in 1969 as a dean at Wright College. He was vice president at Olive-Harvey from 1971-1973; head of communications from 1973-1979, and then taught anthropology, sociology, and history at Loop College until his retirement in 1989.

He discusses the impact of civil right efforts on the City Colleges of Chicago. He also discusses the political involvement of City College students. He was lead plaintiff in the ACLU's Black v. McGuffage Lawsuit involving the Illinois Voting System. He has published a two volume book titled *Bridges of Memory: Chicago's First Wave of Great Migration*. The *Timuel Black Papers* are housed at the Woodson Regional Library.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** City Colleges of Chicago history, 1969-1989; Civil Rights Movement and City College; City Colleges transfer program; teaching of history, anthropology, and sociology at City Colleges; the Great Migration (African-American) into Chicago

**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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