

## Irma Diaz Oral History Interview Index

- :39 Birth information and family information/dynamics; immigration to Illinois in 1968; marriage and children
- 3:13 Education and migrant farming
- 4:12 Career in social work because of family background; “I wanted to help people find meaningful employment;” employment counselor with Illinois Migrant Council; current staffing agency
- 5:49 College; business administration; Harvard and Stanford courses
- 7:21 Life in 1970s in college and work; caregiving responsibilities; attendance of National Women’s Conference at the age of 21; idealism; involvement in organizations to help poor people and migrants
- 8:36 Founding Employment and Training Centers, Inc (ETC); had worked in Houston with youth training
- 9:43 Challenges in career including not having credit, but strong work ethic
- 11:30 Being chairperson of Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; change of focus to small businesses
- 12:53 Advice to young professionals: “Never give up.”
- 13:48 Future goals for her business; middle daughter now runs the company; need for adaptability
- 16:07 Organizational involvement: Board of Directors of BakerRipley, Houston Symphony, Memorial Hermann Hospital, and many other organizations
- 17:15 Attending the National Women’s Conference (NWC) as a delegate from Illinois; first impressions of Houston; influence of various women at the conference
- 19:18 Illinois Migrant Council and participation at NWC
- 20:20 Memories of the planks, especially Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); desire to help workers; inspiration to see what other states were doing for worker rights
- 21:32 Initial involvement with NWC; met others at the pre-conference
- 22:44 Influence of conference
- 24:30 Any challenges during the conference; lines everywhere at the Hyatt Regency; difficulty choosing between things to attend because Diaz wanted to participate in many things at once
- 25:48 NWC successes—26 planks
- 28:49 Effects of NWC on personal work; she continued work in getting people meaningful work; also supported women in education, STEM occupations, politics, etc.
- 30:20 Personal lessons from conference came from seeing women as a powerful force; inspiration to do more; desire to find a life partner with similar views
- 32:40 Other thoughts/memories about the conference; noted diversity of women at conference; feelings of inspiration; inspiration to be more politically involved
- 33:56 Hopes for gender equality—more representation and local, state, and national levels; more diversity; philosophy of treating others as you would want to be treated
- 35:30 Thoughts about NWC influencing future generations; need to study the past to keep from repeating mistakes; the need to appreciate opportunities

- 37:15 Advice to young people “Be involved. Get involved.” Importance of volunteering and getting involved in communities.
- 38:04 Gratitude for being part of National Women’s Conference; need for more gatherings of women
- 39:16 Diaz’s interest in lifelong learning and continued interest in helping others