

Guide to the William P. Sosnowsky Papers

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Finding aid written in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI, 48202

<https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository: Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator: Sosnowsky, William Paul
Title: William P. Sosnowsky Papers
Identifier: WSP000606
Date: 1906
Date: 1923-1929
Date: 1935
Date: 1942
Date: 1953-1957
Date: 1964-1968
Date: 1981-1994
Date: 2000-2020
Date: undated
Date: Majority of material found within 2000-2020

Physical Description: 4 Linear Feet (2 SB, 1 OS)

Abstract

After receiving his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate from the Wayne State University College of Education, William Paul Sosnowsky joined the college faculty in 1965. As unofficial historian of the College of Education, Sosnowsky took a particular interest in the history of the founding of the college and the university at large. This collection contains Sosnowsky's research on the founding of the college, which began as the Detroit Normal Training School and later became the Detroit Teacher's College. It also contains Sosnowsky's research on Amanda Parker Funnelle, the Detroit Normal Training School's founding principal. After spending decades researching this topic, Sosnowsky maintained that the Detroit Normal Training School originated before 1881, the date officially accepted by the university.

Acquisition

The William P. Sosnowsky Papers were donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library on October 14, 2022 by Frances LaPlante-Sosnowsky.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Taylor Henning on November 22, 2022.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials. Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Citation Style

"William P. Sosnowsky Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

History

William Paul Sosnowsky was born in Hamtramck, Michigan in 1928. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Following his service on the European front and in the Mediterranean, he sailed to Antarctica for Operation Highjump on December 29, 1946. Upon his return to Michigan, Sosnowsky pursued higher education at Wayne State University, receiving his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate from the College of Education. In 1965, he joined the faculty of the college, focusing his academic career on educational leadership and special education administration.

As unofficial historian of the College of Education, Sosnowsky took a particular interest in the history of the founding of the college and the university at large. After spending decades researching this topic, he maintained that the college's founding institution, the Detroit Normal Training School, originated before 1881, the date officially accepted by the university. Sosnowsky shared his research in college publications, including bringing lesser-known figures in the history of the college to light. After 36 years at Wayne, Sosnowsky retired in 2001 as Professor Emeritus. He passed away in 2021 at the age of 92.

Scope and Content

This collection contains William P. Sosnowsky's research on the founding of Wayne State University's College of Education, which began as the Detroit Normal Training School and later became the Detroit Teacher's College. It also contains Sosnowsky's research on Amanda Parker Funnelle, the Detroit Normal Training School's founding principal.

The collection contains chronologies of Wayne State University (WSU) and Detroit Public Schools (DPS); secondary sources and printed webpages on WSU, DPS, and Funnelle; bulletins and course catalogs from WSU antecedent institutions; manuscripts on Funnelle and her family; copies of university seals; and correspondence with archivists and librarians at WSU, SUNY at Albany, SUNY at Oswego, and Indiana State University regarding research on Funnelle.

Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject

may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

Language of Materials

Material entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Detroit (Mich.). Board of Education
- Detroit Medical College
- Detroit Normal Training School for Teachers
- Detroit Public Schools
- Detroit Teachers College
- Universities and colleges -- United States -- History
- Wayne State University
- Wayne State University. College of Education

Collection Inventory

Black Binder; Document Archive, Skeleton Chronology, References, and University Seals, 1982, 2016-2019, undated

Box 1; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

Blue Binder; Printed Webpages Regarding University History (1 of 2), 2017-2020

Box 1; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

Blue Binder; Printed Webpages Regarding University History (2 of 2), 2017-2020

Box 1; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

Signatures and Business Cards of College of Education Faculty, 1926-1927, 1981, undated

Box 1; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)

Bulletins and Course Catalogs, 1923, 1929, 1953

Box 1; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

General

Detroit Teacher's College bulletin, 1923-1924 Detroit Municipal Colleges catalog, 1929-1930 Colleges of the City of Detroit bulletin, 1933

"One Hundred Years: The Story of the Detroit Public Schools, 1842-1942", 1942	Box 1; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)
University at Albany and Amanda Parker Funnelle, 2002	Box 1; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)
SUNY at Oswego, undated	Box 1; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)
Amanda Funnelle, 1990-1992, 2002-2007	Box 1; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)
Amanda Funnelle; Sources, Notes, and Correspondence, 1990-1994, 2000-2003	Box 1; Folder 10 (Mixed Materials)
"Amanda Parker Funnelle" Draft and "Funnells of Strawberry Hill", undated	Box 1; Folder 11 (Mixed Materials)
Harriet Marie Scott Memorial Window Articles, 1981-1985, 2004	Box 1; Folder 12 (Mixed Materials)
Oswego Sources, undated	Box 1; Folder 13 (Mixed Materials)
Funnelle Manuscripts by Sosnowsky and Alexander F. Beattie, 2002-2005, undated	Box 1; Folder 14 (Mixed Materials)
Chronology of Wayne State University and Detroit Public School, undated	Box 1; Folder 15 (Mixed Materials)
Resources and Notes for Historiography (1 of 2), 2017-2020	Box 1; Folder 16 (Mixed Materials)
Resources and Notes for Historiography (2 of 2), 2017-2020	Box 1; Folder 17 (Mixed Materials)
Detroit Normal Training School Founding Date, 1988-1989, 2003, 2020, undated	Box 1; Folder 18 (Mixed Materials)
Wayne State University Establishment Date Research and Articles on Charles L. Spain, 1935, 1957, 2003-2006, 2014-2016	Box 2; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)
"Major Evidence"; Articles on Wayne State University Founding and Detroit College of Medicine Articles of Association, 2020, undated	Box 2; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)
Reuther Library Sources, 2014-2020, undated	Box 2; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)
Detroit Public Schools-Wayne State University Bulletins and Catalogs (Photocopies), undated	Box 2; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)
Chronologies of Wayne State University and Detroit, 2014, 2020, undated	Box 2; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

Chronologies, 1964-1968, 2003, 2016-2020, undated	Box 2; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)
Sesquicentenary and Centenary Evidentiary Documents, 2014-2020	Box 2; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)
Seals, 2018, undated	Box 2; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)
Leslie L. Hanawalt and A Place of Light, 1957, 1983, 2002-2003, 2010, 2016, undated	Box 2; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)
Wayne University Pennant, undated	Box 3; Item 1 (Mixed Materials)
Sara Margaret Starrs' Diploma from Detroit Normal Training School, 1906	Box 3; Item 2 (Mixed Materials)
Correspondence with Archbishop Joseph Tobin Regarding Starrs' Diploma, 2015	Box 3; Item 3 (Mixed Materials)
News Articles on Archbishop Joseph Tobin, 2016	Box 3; Item 4 (Mixed Materials)
