

Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

Finding Aid: Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Penny McMullen, SL

LHC17.U

Date Range: 1980-2017

Creator: Sr. Penny McMullen, SL

Extent: 0.20 linear ft.

Language: English

Access Restrictions: Access to materials in the Loretto Heritage Center archives are granted at the discretion of Heritage Center staff and the Loretto Community. Letters of recommendation and photographs of students are restricted for 100 years from the date of creation. Restricted files are labeled as such.

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Citation: LHC17.U Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Penny McMullen, [Folder i.d.] [Folder Title], Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives (Nerinx, KY)

Creator of Material Biography: Sr. Penny McMullen, S.L (1942-2017) was born Sylvia Penelope McMullen in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She attended high school at Newman High School in Sterling, IL and applied for permission to join vowed life shortly after graduating. She received the habit on May 31, 1961 and took the name John Elizabeth. Penny earned her B.A. in Mathematics from Webster University and an M.A. in Mathematics from Bowdoin University. At Webster College she studied with the originators of the Madison Project, a "new math" curriculum program. Penny taught at several Loretto schools between 1963 and 1972. In 1974, Penny began community organizing work for the National Farm Worker Ministry in St. Louis. She spent a year in Chile as a volunteer for the Chilean Refugee Program-Partners in Mission. Penny also spent time as a paralegal and an adult educator.

Penny moved to Santa Fe, NM in the mid-1980s and remained there for most of the rest of her life. While in Santa Fe, Penny worked as a teacher, an advocate for farm workers, and as a nuclear-free world activist. Around age 50, Penny began to suspect that she had high-functioning autism. She was tested and diagnosed with autism, and then began a master's program at Skidmore College where she studied the effects of high-functioning autism on afflicted adults. She began the Loretto Tutor Team in Santa Fe, which grew to have 20 tutors serving about 200 students annually. Penny also lobbied the New Mexico state government to support awareness of and services for people with autism.

Description: Consists of two sub-series. The first sub-series documents Penny's pursuit of her M.A.L.S from Skidmore College and her written work which resulted from that degree program. Contained in these materials are Penny's research into autism and essays relating her own experience as a person with autism, including extensive writing of her symptoms and diagnosis. Also included in this sub-series are correspondence with Skidmore College and photographs of Penny's graduation. The second sub-series documents the Loretto Tutor Team.

Related Materials: Personnel file of Penny (LHC04) for biographical information, retirement scrapbook and jubilee cards.

Arrangement

Material was grouped into sub-series.

Sub-series 1: LHC17.U.a Autism Research

Box 1: LHC17.U.a.01

- Folder 1: Essays Related to Personal Experience with Autism
- Folder 2: Research Articles and Literature Reviews
- Folder 3: Thesis Outline and Partial Draft
- Folder 4: Master's Thesis Draft
- Folder 5: Master's Thesis Final Draft
- Folder 6: Master's Thesis Published Copy
- Folder 7: Correspondence, Skidmore College
- Folder 8: Skidmore College Graduation Photographs

Sub-series 2: LHC17.U.b Loretto Tutor Team

Box 1: LHC17.U.b.01

- Folder 1: Annual Reports and Awards
- Folder 2: Legal Documentation
- Folder 3: Non-Profit Corporate Reports
- Folder 4: Letters of Recommendation and Student Progress Reports
Materials in this file are restricted until 2101.
- Folder 5: Photographs, Brochures, and Articles
Use of photographs containing students is prohibited until 2101.