

Interview – Mr. John M. Mutz

April 11, 2006

Interviewer: Dr. Philip V. Scarpino
Director of Oral History,
Randall L. Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence

Narrator: Mr. John M. Mutz
Chairman of the Board,
Lumina Foundation for Education

Follow-up questions: Dr. Gerald L. Bepko
Inaugural Director,
Randall L. Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence

John Wesley Beeler
Research assistant,
Randall L. Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence

Date of Interview: April 11, 2006

Today is April 11, 2006, and I am interviewing Mr. John M. Mutz in the Law School at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), located in the Lawrence W. Inlow Hall building. This interview, which is the first with Mr. Mutz, is part of a larger project undertaken by the Randall L. Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence, located at IUPUI. The long-term goal of this project is to create an archive of oral histories with distinguished leaders on the subject of leadership. The project supervisors are Dr. Gerald L. Bepko, Director of the Randall L. Tobias Center, and Dr. Philip L. Cochran, Associate Director of the Center and the Thomas W. Binford Chair in Corporate Citizenship. Dr. Philip V. Scarpino is the Director of Oral History for the Tobias Center and Chair of the Department of History. John Beeler, a graduate student in the history program at IUPUI, is the research assistant.

The project team asked Mr. Mutz to be a narrator because he has served in various multi-sector leadership positions in the State of Indiana. Mr. Mutz was born in Indianapolis on November 5, 1935. He earned bachelors and master's degrees from Northwestern University. His successes as an entrepreneur include development of a franchise partnership that eventually owned 31 Burger Chef restaurants (1965-1980) and formation of Circle Leasing Corporation (1962-1980), ultimately sold to Xerox Credit Corporation. He served as a state representative from 1967-1970, and a state senator from 1971-1980. As a state representative, he helped write the Unigov legislation that combined many of the governmental functions of Indianapolis and Marion County. As a state senator, he served as chairman of the state budget committee from 1977-1978. In 1980, Mr. Mutz was elected Lt. Governor of Indiana, where he pursued an aggressive agenda of outside investment in Indiana's declining economy. As a two-term Lieutenant Governor (1981-1989), he was President of the Indiana Senate; Executive Director, Department of

Commerce, and Director, Department of Employment Training Services; and he served as Commissioner of Agriculture. Mr. Mutz ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1988 against Democrat Evan Bayh. The Lilly Endowment hired him as president in 1989, a post that he held until 1993. As President of the Lilly Endowment, Mr. Mutz expanded the reach of the Endowment outside of Indianapolis and into smaller Indiana communities. In 1993 Mr. Mutz returned to the private sector and became chairman of PSI Energy, Indiana's largest electric utility company, a post he held until 1999. In 2002, he served as Chairman of the City of Indianapolis, Department of Waterworks. Mr. Mutz is currently Chairman of the Board of the Lumina Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing greater access to higher education opportunities for underserved populations.