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## UA3/4/8 President Dero Downing - Interviews/ Oral History

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**Western Kentucky University  
UA3 President's Office  
Series 4 Dero Downing  
Subseries 8 Interviews/Oral History**



**Contact information:**

WKU Archives  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Kentucky Library & Museum  
1906 College Heights Blvd.#11092  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092  
Phone: 270-745-4793  
Email: <http://wkuarchives.wordpress.com/about/>  
Home page: <http://www.wku.edu/library/archive>  
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**Biographical/Historical Note:** The president's office was created in 1906. The search for the fourth president of WKU began with Kelly Thompson's resignation announcement May 21, 1969. Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dero Downing indicated that he would serve if asked. The Board of Regents elected him president on August 22, 1969. He served until his retirement in 1979.

Dero Downing was born September 10, 1921 at Fountain Run in Monroe County, Kentucky, and grew up at Horse Cave in Hart County. He enrolled at WKU in 1939 where he played basketball and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree. After serving in the Navy in World War II, he returned to Western as a mathematics teacher and coach at the College's Training School. He later became director of the Training School, college registrar, dean of admissions, dean of business affairs, and vice-president for administrative and business affairs. Upon his resignation as president in 1979 Downing became president of the College Heights Foundation.

**Description:** Interviews and oral histories by and about Dero Downing.

**Dates:** 1958-1979

**Subject Analytics:**

Audio recording  
Downing, Dero Goodman, b. 1921  
Downing, Harriet  
Interviews  
Western Kentucky University  
Western Kentucky University

**Accession Information:** These records were transferred to the University Archives upon its creation.

**Access Restrictions:** none

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