

# 2017 UIS Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series

## Synopses

### Lincoln's Self-Education: The Personal and the Public – Robert Bray

Bray's lecture will examine in detail some literary and historical texts that Abraham Lincoln first encountered as a young boy in Indiana, a time of great emotional and intellectual advancement for the young man. According to Lincoln's law partner and friend William H. Herndon, these documents—especially the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the great 18th century poem, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" by Thomas Gray"—assimilated" into Lincoln's "being" and throughout his life served as centers of gravity, as double stars really, for his political and private views of the democratic polis and the individual within it.

### Why Lincoln?: An Examination of Lincoln's Role in Today's Education – Paula Shotwell

What place does Abraham Lincoln have in modern education? What value is there for today's youth to examine his life, his words, and his education? Shotwell will explore these questions and share the ways she has seen Lincoln reach out from the past to connect with her students; and she will discuss what Lincoln teaches today's youth about America, about themselves, and about the importance of learning.

### Lincoln's Views on Education – Michael Burlingame

An examination of what Lincoln had to say about education, starting with his earliest run for political office at the age of 23, when he told the voters of Sangamon County: "I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in."