

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Zerrie D. Campbell

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Campbell, Zerrie, 1951-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Zerrie D. Campbell,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 11, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:55:24).
<b>Abstract:</b>	College president Zerrie D. Campbell (1951 - ) is the first female President of Malcolm X College. Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 11, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_074
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Zerrie Campbell, the first woman to be president of Malcolm X College, was born in Chicago, Illinois, on February 9, 1951. After attending Chicago Public Schools, Campbell went to Northern Illinois University, earning her B.A. degree in English in 1972, and her M.S. degree in secondary professional education in 1974. Campbell later returned to Chicago State University to earn her M.A. degree in English in 1978.

Campbell began her professional career at Malcolm X College, where she served as the assistant dean of student support services from 1974 to 1977, before going on to become an instructor of English and communications; a position she held until 1982. In 1983, Campbell was hired by Harold Washington College as an assistant professor of English, where she remained until 1987. Turning fully to administration that same year, Campbell became the associate vice chancellor for liberal arts and sciences at the City Colleges of Chicago. In 1989, Campbell returned to Malcolm X to become the vice president of academic affairs; by 1992 she had risen to the position of president of the school. Under Campbell's leadership, Malcolm X received a number of awards for teaching, including the 1997 Award for Excellence in Workforce Preparation from the Illinois Community College Board. During the course of her career, Campbell also negotiated with local businesses and organizations for increased funding for scholarships.

Campbell received numerous other awards, including the Outstanding Woman Award from Harold Washington College in 1999; the 1998 Outstanding Educator Award from the 7th Congressional District; and being listed as one of 100 People 'N' The Know by *N'Digo*. Campbell also held membership in the National Association of Female Executives and numerous other professional and civic organizations, both local and national in scope.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Zerrie D. Campbell was conducted by Adele Hodge on April 11, 2003, in

Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. College president Zerrie D. Campbell (1951 - ) is the first female President of Malcolm X College.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Campbell, Zerrie, 1951-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Campbell, Zerrie, 1951---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

College President

## HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Zerrrie D. Campbell, April 11, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Zerrrie D. Campbell, Section A2003\_074\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:54 ?

Zerrrie D. Campbell talks about her parents' backgrounds and fondly recalls her grandmothers. Campbell discusses her family structure during her parents' marital separation, and shares memories of growing up in her household. Lastly, she remembers the various elementary schools she attended in Chicago as her parents successfully attempted to repair their marriage.

Video Oral History Interview with Zerrrie D. Campbell, Section A2003\_074\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:44 ?

Zerrrie D. Campbell remembers the many teachers that influenced her throughout her childhood. She also discusses her family's move to the Chatham neighborhood in Chicago. Campbell then discusses her experiences at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, naming influential professors. She also talks about

her pursuit of a graduate degree at Malcolm X College. Lastly, Campbell details her pending marriage and motherhood plans while juggling her career as an educator.

Video Oral History Interview with Zerrrie D. Campbell, Section A2003\_074\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Zerrrie D. Campbell details her career path as she moved from administrative positions into the classroom as a professor of English and shares her philosophy on education. Campbell explains the circumstances that led to her being named president of Malcolm X College. She discusses her achievements as president and comments on she changed the institution's image and perception in the public eye. Lastly, she explains how Malcolm X College's high quality of education differs greatly from public, four-year colleges.

Video Oral History Interview with Zerrrie D. Campbell, Section A2003\_074\_001\_004, TRT: 0:24:26 ?

Zerrrie D. Campbell describes her involvement in professional educational affiliations and discusses the various community outreach programs at Malcolm X College.