

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Caroline Hunter

PERSON

Hunter, Caroline, 1946-

Alternative Names: Caroline Hunter;

Life Dates: September 5, 1946-

Place of Birth: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Residence: Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

Occupations: Community Activist;

Biographical Note

Anti-Apartheid activist and educator Caroline Hunter was born on September 5, 1946 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She attended Xavier University Preparatory School and graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana with her B.S. degree in chemistry in 1968.

After graduation, Hunter was hired as a research bench chemist for Polaroid Corporation in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1970, upon the discovery of her employer's involvement in the South African apartheid system as the producer of the passbook photos, she and her future husband, co-worker Ken Williams, formed the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement (PRWM). Hunter and Williams became the first American activists to challenge their employers' South African investments. They led a seven-year boycott against Polaroid that included testifying before the United Nations and Congress about American corporations profiting from assisting the South African government. In 1971, Polaroid fired both Hunter and Williams, but the PRWM prevailed and by 1977 Polaroid completely pulled out of South Africa.

After her involvement in the PRWM, Hunter went on to work as an educator. She was a secondary science and math teacher, and volunteered on a number of school-community projects for at-risk youth, advocacy and support for diverse parents, and elimination of the achievement gap. She also taught math and science to Boston, Massachusetts's public high school students in summers and Saturday workshops. In 1999, Hunter earned her M.Ed. degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and became the assistant principal of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

Hunter was invited to give the keynote at the Dr. Effie Jones Memorial Luncheon at the

AASA National Conference on Education, at the Music City Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, and received the Dr. Effie Jones Humanitarian Award from the AASA – The School Superintendents Association on February 14, 2014. Hunter received the 2012 Rosa Parks Memorial Award by the National Education Association for leading the effort that led to sanctions against apartheid in South Africa. The South African Partners presented the Amandla Award to Hunter in 2012, and the Massachusetts Teachers Association presented her with the Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award in 2011. In 1998, after her husband, Ken Williams, passed away, she and her daughter, Lisette, founded the Ken Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund (KWMS), of which Hunter served as secretary and the annual golf tournament coordinator. The KWMS Fund has awarded more than \$30,000 in college scholarships to needy high school students from Cambridge and Martha's Vineyard for outstanding social justice work and art.

Caroline Hunter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 9, 2014.

Related Entries

Harvard Graduate School of Education [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.Ed.

Antioch Graduate Center [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.Ed.

Xavier University of Louisiana [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Student Government Advisor

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Teacher on Assignment

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Mediation Instructor

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Title I Mathematics Teacher

SchoolWorks, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Lead and Team Inspector

Boston Area Self-Help Education Committee (BAHEC) [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Curriculum, Resource Developer, and Education Coordinator

Education Collaborative [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Science Teacher/Basic Skills Tutor

New England Aquarium, World of Water Program [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Science Teacher

DARE, Inc. & BAHEC [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Curriculum Developer and Science Teacher

Polaroid Corporation [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1968 to 1971]

Research Bench Chemist

Harvard Graduate School, Masters of Teaching Program [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1989 to 1990]

Supervisor, Student Teaching Program; Teaching Fellow

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2000 to 2005]

Assistant Principal

Cambridge Workforce [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2009 to 2010]

SAT Prep Teacher

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1977 to 2011]

Teacher

Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement (PRWM) [MEMBEROf]

[from 1970 to ?]

Governor Sargent's Commission on Privacy & Personal Data [MEMBEROf]

[from 1974 to ?]

Appointee

Center for Technological Alternatives [MEMBEROf]

[from 1974 to ?]

Board of Directors

City of Cambridge Commission on Cable Television [MEMBEROF]

[from 1974 to 1976]

Commissioner

Racial Imbalance Advisory Committee, MA Department of Education [MEMBEROF]

[from 1984 to 1997]

Affirmative Action Advisory Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from 1984 to 1986]

CRLS Faculty Senate Representative

Multicultural Committee, Cambridge Public Schools [MEMBEROF]

[from 1986 to 1989]

Cambridge Rindge & Latin School Scholarship Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from 1987 to 2011]

Operation Rescue, Cambridge Teacher Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1987 to 1988]

Drop Out Prevention Team

Cambridge Partnership for Public Education [MEMBEROF]

[from 1988 to 1992]

Board of Directors

MA Teachers Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1988 to ?]

Delegate to the National Convention

Mayor Alice Wolfe's Town and Gown Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from 1990 to 1991]

House of Blues Scholarship Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from 1995 to 2000]

Mayor Kenneth Reeves' Commission on Schools for the 21st Century [MEMBEROF]

[from 1995 to ?]

The Benjamin Banneker Charter School [MEMBEROF]

[from 1995 to 1998]

Co-Founder & Member, Board of Directors

Task Force/Commission on African American Male Success [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to ?]

Ken Williams Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament/Luncheon [MEMBEROF]

[from 1998 to 2013]

Golf Coordinator

Superintendent D'Alessandro's Task Force on Race/Class, Cambridge Public Schools [MEMBEROF]
[from 1998 to ?]

MA Department of Education [MEMBEROF]
[from 1998 to 1999]

Reader of Charter School Proposals

Mayor Duchay's Commission on Race/Class [MEMBEROF]
[from 1999 to ?]

Ken Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund [MEMBEROF]
[from 2000 to ?]

Co-Founder & Secretary

Fatherhood Program, Middlesex Probation Department [MEMBEROF]
[from 2002 to 2006]