

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Melvin Stith

PERSON

Stith, Melvin, 1946-

**Alternative Names:** Melvin Stith;

**Life Dates:** August 11, 1946-

**Place of Birth:** Portsmouth, Virginia, USA

**Residence:** Jamesville, New York

**Occupations:** Business School Dean

## Biographical Note

Academic administrator Melvin Stith was born on August 11, 1946 in Portsmouth, Virginia to Florence Stith and Millard Stith. Stith graduated from Central High School in 1964, and earned his B.S. degree in sociology from Norfolk State University in 1968. Stith then received his M.B.A. degree in 1973 and his Ph.D. degree in marketing in 1978, both from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. Stith served in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Command from 1968 to 1972, achieving the rank of captain.

From 1977 to 1982, Stith worked as an assistant professor of business and an associate dean at the University of South Florida College of Business. He then served as a visiting professor at the Florida A&M University School of Business and Industry from 1982 to 1985, when he accepted an associate professor position in the marketing department at Florida State University, later serving as the department's chair. In 1991, Stith was named dean of the business school and Jim Moran Professor of Business Administration. He left Florida State University in 2005 to become the dean of the Martin J. Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. Stith also served on a number of boards, including Aflac, Flowers Food Corporation, the Keebler Food Company, and the Tallahassee State Bank. He served as president of the Crouse Hospital Foundation, an independent director at Synovus Financial Corporation, and an advisory board member of Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families. In 2018, Stith was appointed interim president of Norfolk State University.

Stith has received numerous awards over the course of his career. In 1990, he won Florida State University's Dr. MLK Jr.'s Distinguished Service Award; and in 2018, he was inducted into the Florida State University College of Business Faculty Hall of Fame. His Ph.D. thesis became part of the Ph.D. Project Hall of Fame in 2014. He was

a recipient of the Syracuse University Orange Circle Award, and is a member of the Lyman Beecher Brooks Society at Norfolk State University. Stith was named as a top influential black corporate executive by Savoy Magazine in 2016 and 2017.

Stith and his wife, Dr. Patricia Lynn Stith, have three children: Melvin Stith, Jr., Lori Stith, and William Stith.

Melvin Stith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 16, 2018.

## Related Entries

**Norfolk State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Syracuse University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.B.A.**

**Syracuse University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**University of South Florida** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1977 to 1982]

**Associate Dean**

**Florida A & M** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1985]

**Visiting Professor**

**Florida State University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1991 to 2004]

**Dean**

**Syracuse University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2005 to 2013]

**Dean**

**Syracuse University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2013 to 2015]

**Professor**

**Norfolk State University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2018 to ?]

**Interim President**

**Corporate and Estate Analysis Inc.** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Correctional Services Corporation** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Crouse Hospital Foundation** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Advisory Board**

**Everson Museum of Art** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Florida Endowment Fund, Inc.** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**GMAC** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Jim Moran Foundation** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Founding Member**

**JM Family Enterprises Youth Automotive Training Center** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Keebler Foods Company** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Pathways Commission** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**PHT Services, Ltd.** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**