

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William A. Hawkins

PERSON

Hawkins, William , 1947-

Alternative Names: Hawkins, William , 1947-

Life Dates: September 15, 1947-

Place of Birth: Washington, D.C.

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Program Director; Math Professor

Biographical Note

Program director and math professor William Anthony Hawkins, Jr. was born in Washington, D.C. in 1947. His father, William Anthony Hawkins, Sr., was a postal worker; his mother, a dental hygienist. After graduating from Archbishop Carroll High School in 1964, Hawkins briefly attended Merrimack College before transferring to Howard University. While there, he studied under Dr. Louise Raphael and went on to graduate with his B.S. degree in mathematics in 1968. In 1970, Hawkins received his M.S. degree in physics from Howard University and his M.S. degree in mathematics from the University of Michigan. He was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship to attend the University of Michigan where he studied under Dr. James S. Milne and graduated from there with his Ph.D. degree in mathematics in 1982.

Hawkins has dedicated over thirty-six years to the teaching of minority students. In 1968, Hawkins was hired as a teacher at Cardozo High School in Washington, D.C., soon discovering his passion for teaching. In 1970, Hawkins was appointed as an instructor at Federal City College (University of the District of Columbia). He went on to serve as chair of the mathematics department of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) for five years.

In 1990, Hawkins took leave from his position as associate professor at UDC and became project director of the Strengthening Underrepresented Minority Mathematics Achievement (SUMMA) Program at the Mathematical Association of America. While there, he raised more than \$3 million to increase the representation of minorities in mathematics, science, and engineering and to improve the mathematics education of minorities. In 1995, Hawkins returned to UDC as an associate professor in the mathematics department while simultaneously directing the SUMMA program.

Hawkins authored "Attracting Minorities into Teaching Mathematics" 1994, and "Constructing a Secure Pipeline for Minority Students" 1995. Hawkins is a member of the Mathematical Association of American and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He received the of the 2006 Benjamin Banneker Legacy Award from the Banneker Institute of Science & Technology, and the 2013 Gung and Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics from the Mathematical Association of America.

William Anthony Hawkins, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 17, 2013.

Related Entries

Lawyuna Bowman, Amanda [CHILD_OF]
Mother

Bowman, Adelaide [STEPGRANDCHILD_OF]
Maternal Step-Grandmother

Bowman, Lindsey [GRANDCHILD_OF]
Maternal Grandfather

Bowman, Lindsey, Jr. [NEPHEW_OF]
Uncle (M)

Bowman, Hazel [NEPHEW_OF]
Aunt (M)

Hawkins, William Anthony, Sr. [CHILD_OF]
Father

Hawkins, William [GRANDCHILD_OF]
Paternal Grandfather

Johnson, Ivy Lee [GRANDCHILD_OF]
Paternal Grandmother

Hawkins, James [NEPHEW_OF]
Uncle (P)

Hawkins, Charlie [NEPHEWOF]
Uncle (P)

Hawkins, Joseph [NEPHEWOF]
Uncle (P)

Walker, Ethel [NEPHEWOF]
Aunt (P)

Bray, Sara C. [NEPHEWOF]
Aunt (P)

Hawkins, Ivy [COUSINOF]
Cousin

Hawkins, Teerry [COUSINOF]
Cousin

University of Michigan [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1982-01]
Ph.D.

University of Michigan [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 0970-01]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1970-01]
M.S.

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1968-01]
B.S.

Cardozo High School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968-12 to 1969-06]
Teacher

University of the District of Columbia [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995-08 to ?]
Teacher

University of the District of Columbia [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979-08 to 1990-08]
Teacher

Federal City College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970-09 to 1974-08]

Teacher

Mathematical Association of America [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990-09 to ?]

Project Director

Mathematical Association of America [MEMBEROF]

Project Director

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

Member