

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dolores E. Cross

PERSON

Cross, Dolores E.

Alternative Names: Dolores E. Cross;

Life Dates: August 29, 1938-

Place of Birth: Newark, New Jersey, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Education Professor; College President

Biographical Note

Celebrated educator and university administrator Dolores Cross raised the bar of institutional performance as the first female president of both Morris Brown College in Atlanta and Chicago State University. Born to Ozie and John Tucker on August 29, 1938, in Newark, New Jersey, Dr. Cross's early education took place in Newark's public school system. After receiving her B.S. in education from Seton Hall University in 1963, Dr. Cross furthered her education by gaining her M.S. in education from Hofstra

University and later her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Throughout her career, Dr. Cross has been consistent in her commitment to educational excellence. While earning her B.S. as a young mother, she overcame negative societal attitudes about race and gender. After completing her Ph.D. in 1971, Cross went on to make a critical impact in institutions of higher education. She has since served as an associate professor of education at Claremont University in California, vice chancellor for student affairs and special programs at City University of New York, president of the New York State Services Corporation, and as president of Morris Brown College and Chicago State University. In addition to her earned degrees, she has received more than eight honorary degrees from various universities and has served on numerous national and international associations and boards, including the American Council on Education and the Institute for International Education.

Ending her tenure at Morris Brown in the summer of 2002, Dr. Cross continued her commitment to education by acting as chairperson of the American Association of Higher Education. She chronicled her life story in a memoir entitled, *Breaking Through the Wall: A Marathoner's Story* published by Third World Press. Dr. Cross had two adult children, Jane Cross and Thomas Cross, Jr.

Related Entries

William McKinley Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

William McKinley Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

Seton Hall University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Hofstra University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.S.

University of Michigan [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Central High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

diploma

Northwestern University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1974 to 1977]

Assistant Professor

Claremont Graduate School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1978]

Associate professor

City University of New York [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1978 to 1980]

Vice Chancellor

New York State Services Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1988]

president

University of Minnesota [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to 1990]

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Chicago State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to 1997]

President

General Electric Company - Fairfield, Connecticut

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1997 to 1998]

President

Morris Brown College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to 2002]

President

Institute of International Education [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Director

National Institute of Public Policy [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Director

American Council on Education [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Director

North Trust Corporate Board [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Director

American Association of Higher Education [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Chair