

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dolores E. Cross

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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>	Cross, Dolores E.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dolores E. Cross,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 14, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:31:54).
<b>Abstract:</b>	College president and education professor Dolores E. Cross (1938 - ) served as president of both Morris Brown College and Chicago State University. She chronicled her life story in a memoir entitled, 'Breaking Through the Wall: A Marathoner's Story,' published by Third World Press. Cross was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 14, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_017
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

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.

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## **Scope and Content**

This life oral history interview with Dolores E. Cross was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 14, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. College president and education professor Dolores E. Cross (1938 - ) served as president of both Morris Brown College and Chicago State University. She chronicled her life story in a memoir entitled, 'Breaking Through the Wall: A Marathoner's Story,' published by Third World Press.

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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:

Cross, Dolores E.

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cross, Dolores E.--Interviews

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African American college presidents--Interviews.

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African American college administrators--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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Morris Brown College

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## **Occupations:**

Education Professor

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College President

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## **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 Dolores E. Cross, March 14, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual

## 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 Dolores E. Cross, Section  
A2002\_017\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:52 2002/03/19

Educator and college president Dolores Cross details her family background and her childhood in Newark, New Jersey. Cross talks about her parents personalities and explains the effects of their divorce on her and her sister. Cross talks about growing up in the projects, recalling harrowing experiences that shaped her whole life. Cross also describes her own personality as a child, talking about her difficulty with stuttering and her interest in reading.

African American families--New Jersey--Newark.

Children of divorced parents.

Childhood--New Jersey--Newark.

Video Oral History Interview with Dolores E. Cross, Section  
A2002\_017\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:11 2002/03/19

Educator and college president Dolores Cross discusses her aspirations for her post-high school career and explains how she overcame her stuttering problem. Cross talks about the challenge of attending college and raising her family after she got married. She explains that she strived to put her family's needs equal with her own educational and professional goals. Cross then describes her activist efforts during the 1960s, when she led a movement for school integrations on Long Island.

Stuttering.

Education--New Jersey.

African American families.

Civil rights activists.

Video Oral History Interview with Dolores E. Cross, Section  
A2002\_017\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:04 2002/03/19

Dolores Cross details her career development throughout the 1960s and 1970s, and the challenges of balancing her career with her family. Cross first discusses her doctoral work at the University of Michigan and how it led to a professorship at Northwestern University. Cross describes her research of multiculturalism at Northwestern and explains her adjustments to an all-white environment. Cross then talks about her move to Claremont Graduate School as a professor, and her subsequent appointment as Vice Chancellor of the City University of New York, the first African American woman to be appointed to the position.

University of Michigan.

Northwestern University.

Claremont Graduate School

City University of New York.

African American college administrators.

Video Oral History Interview with Dolores E. Cross, Section  
A2002\_017\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:43 2002/03/19

Educator and college president Dolores Cross details her time as Vice Chancellor of the City University of New York and as President of Chicago State University. Cross explains how she changed the image of Chicago State and improved the lives of her students, as well as sharing how the students changed her. Cross talks about her marathon running and explains why she left her post at Chicago State. Cross then shares her opinions on the state of education as it relates to African Americans and her concerns for historically black colleges and universities.

City University of New York.

Chicago State University.

African American college presidents.

Historically black colleges and universities.

Video Oral History Interview with Dolores E. Cross, Section  
A2002\_017\_001\_005, TRT: 0:31:04 2002/03/19

Educator and college president Dolores Cross continues to discuss the importance of historically black colleges and universities. Cross then discusses the importance of the public school system and its need for equity. Cross comments on the role of multiculturalism in America and discusses the future of black history. Cross then considers her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.

Historically black colleges and universities.

Public schools.