

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Elnora D. Daniel

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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>	Daniel, Elnora, 1941-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Elnora D. Daniel,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 21, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:06:10).
<b>Abstract:</b>	University president Elnora D. Daniel (1941 - ) is the president of Chicago State University and has also worked as an international health care consultant. Daniel was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 21, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_109
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Elnora D. Daniel was born in Oxford, North Carolina, on November 19, 1941, the eldest daughter of a butcher and a mechanic. After graduating from high school in 1959, Daniel went to North Carolina A&T University, earning her B.S. degree in 1964. Following her graduation, Daniel relocated to New York and began attending Columbia University, where she earned her M.Ed. degree in 1968. Daniel continued her studies at William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1972, before returning to Columbia for her Ed.D. degree in 1975.

Daniel began her career working as a nurse at the New York Medical Center following her graduation from North Carolina A&T. Once she returned to school, Daniel worked as a teaching assistant at Columbia until 1976. In 1980, Daniel became dean of Hampton University, in addition to working as an instructor. Daniel became the administrator for the Interdisciplinary Nursing Center for Health and Wellness at Hampton in 1985, and the vice president of academic affairs in 1991. In 1995, Daniel became provost of the university, a position she retained for three years. Chicago State University offered Daniel the presidency in 1998, and she accepted; she went on to serve as both the president and the CEO of CSU. Under Daniel's leadership, CSU constructed a number of new facilities; balanced budgets; and saw significant increases in gifts received. Daniel was also appointed by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to serve as a healthcare consultant for several African nations, including Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

In addition to her scholastic endeavors, Daniel earned the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corps in 1991; was been active with the Stillwater Institute for Social Justice; and served as a consulting editor for the *Journal of the National Black Nurses' Association*. Daniel also served on the boards of numerous museums and several philanthropic foundations. In 2003, Miller Brewing Company recognized Daniel on the 2003 Gallery of Greats Calendar, honoring "academic dream weavers." Daniel and her husband, Herman, raised one child.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Elnora D. Daniel was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 21, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. University president Elnora D. Daniel (1941 - ) is the president of Chicago State University and has also worked as an international health care consultant.

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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:

Daniel, Elnora, 1941-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Daniel, Elnora, 1941---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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Chicago State University

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## Occupations:

University 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 Elnora D. Daniel, May 21, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## 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 Elnora D. Daniel, Section A2003\_109\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Elnora Daniel states that she was born in 1941 in the small town of Oxford, North Carolina. She and her family lived in a section of town known as Belltown, possibly named for her family. Daniel asserts that the degradation of black people led to inadequate records of their lives; for this reason, she cannot trace her lineage very far. Daniel describes the importance of extended family in her childhood; she remembers her protective grandmother and the aunt and uncle with whom she lived for much of her young life. Daniel explains that her mother was a butcher, an unusual profession for a woman, and she remembers

her father, a mechanic, as a strong and resourceful man. Daniel describes rural life in her aunt's and uncle's home. The family had its own business. Daniel remembers vivid details of the chores associated with rural life. Daniel describes her childhood environs as segregated, though she didn't recognize the extent until she was of school age. A close friend, a little white girl, and Daniel were sent to separate and unequal schools. Daniel recognizes that such distinctions lead to feelings of inferiority among African Americans.

Video Oral History Interview with Elnora D. Daniel, Section A2003\_109\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Elnora Daniel discusses her positive early educational experience. She describes that her aunt and guardian valued education and encouraged Daniel to focus her energies on her schoolwork. Daniel describes a particular affinity for her French language studies. She remembers her authoritarian uncle and guardian who was committed to the church and disallowed Daniel from 'taking company' with boys in high school. Daniel explains that while she really wanted to be a doctor, a lack of accomplished role models discouraged her from that path; instead, she pursued a baccalaureate degree in nursing. Daniel discusses her college options and her final decision to attend North Carolina A & T University. She discusses the climate of the college in 1959 and the civil rights figures who emerged from the university, including Reverend Jesse Jackson. Daniel describes the planning of the influential Civil Rights sit-in movement in which she and her fellow college students took part. She expresses pride in having been involved in such historical events. Daniel discusses college life: her homesickness early on, her decision to pledge a sorority, and her marriage to a fraternity member late in college. Finally, she remembers a memorable teacher whose influence lingers.

Video Oral History Interview with Elnora D. Daniel, Section A2003\_109\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

Elnora Daniel describes that following her graduation from North Carolina A&T University, she took a nursing position at a hospital in New York, New York. After several months she decided to attend Columbia University in pursuit of a graduate degree. Daniel describes that while New York was initially a cold place, she began to embrace what the city had to offer. Upon acquiring a master's degree in education, Daniel decided to pursue a doctoral degree in the same field. Daniel goes on to discuss her thirty-one year history as a Hampton University faculty member. The greatest challenge she faced in her tenure, she describes, was improving the public image of the institution. Daniel faced a similar challenge in her employment at Chicago State University. She gives a brief history of the institution of which she became president, from its days as Cook County Normal School to its present culture. She praises the university's acclaimed writers program and its related conference. Finally, she discusses the university's growing health program.

Video Oral History Interview with Elnora D. Daniel, Section A2003\_109\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Elnora Daniel defends Chicago State University's decision to bring a controversial African political figure to the school for a lecture. She asserts that it is important to encourage discourse with respect to students. The scheduled lecture was one instance of Daniel's international approach to managing a university. In her tenure, Daniel initiated an office of international studies and encouraged partnerships with universities around the world. Daniel considers the differences between students during her college days and the students she manages today. She cites materialism and violence as two troubling trends among young people. Daniel calls for greater collaboration and support among black people in the future. Daniel discusses her stint in the United States military and encourages young people to consider the financial benefits of such pursuits. She goes on to envision a retirement plan with an emphasis on relaxation. Daniel

would like to be remembered as a caring and nurturing person who brought significant resources to an educational institution. Elnora Daniel presents photographs of family, friends and important career moments.

Video Oral History Interview with Elnora D. Daniel, Section A2003\_109\_001\_005, TRT: 0:06:20 ?

Elnora Daniel presents nine photographs that chronicle her family life, travels, and professional achievements.