

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robert Johnson

PERSON

Johnson, Robert, 1935-

Alternative Names: Robert Johnson; Bob Johnson;

Life Dates: June 17, 1935-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Work: Memphis, TN

Occupations: Business Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Robert "Bob" Johnson, born June 17, 1935, in Chicago, was the older of two children born to Gladys and Robert. Johnson attended Roosevelt University in Chicago, earning a B.S. in sociology in 1958.

Following graduation, Johnson went on to work at the Chicago Housing Authority as a community relations aide. In 1965, he was hired at Sears Roebuck & Company, and rose to the position of vice president of specialty sales. In 1988, Johnson and his daughter

partnered to form Bagcraft Corporation of America, a flexible packaging manufacturer, created as part of an initiative by PepsiCo and Frito-Lay to encourage the creation of minority-owned businesses suppliers. In 1991, Johnson and business partner Tom Bryce formed Johnson Bryce, Inc., as part of that same PepsiCo initiative. Johnson currently serves as CEO and chairman of the company. In 1997, with revenues exceeding \$25 million, Johnson Bryce, Inc., was named the Frito-Lay Flexible Packaging Supplier of the Year.

Johnson is also active with several organizations and universities. He is a trustee of LeMoyne Owen College and a member of the board of trustees of Clemson University's Packaging Science Department. He is a founding member of the Executive Leadership Council, a nonprofit corporation that provides a networking and leadership forum for African American executives. Johnson also serves on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Johnson and his wife, Rose, live near Chicago and have two daughters.

Related Entries

Willard Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

Du Sable Leadership Academy [STUDENTOF]

[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

Malcolm X College [STUDENTOF]

[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

Roosevelt University [STUDENTOF]

[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Chicago Housing Authority [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Community Relations Aide

Sears Roebuck & Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199405 to 199408]

Vice President of Specialty Sales

Bagcraft Corporation of America [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to ?]

Co-Founder

Johnson Bryce, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to ?]

Co-Founder

Federal Reserve Bank and Loans [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

LeMoyne Owen College [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Trustee

Clemson University [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Executive Leadership Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founding Member

