

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Earl S. Richardson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Richardson, Earl S.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Earl S. Richardson,
Dates:	November 12, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:47:21).
Abstract:	University president Earl S. Richardson (1943 -) served as the eleventh president of Morgan State University in Baltimore. Under his leadership, both enrollment and financial contributions to the school grew dramatically. Richardson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 12, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_264
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educational administrator Earl S. Richardson was born September 25, 1943, in Westover, Maryland. After high school, Richardson attended Maryland State College (now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore) where he earned a B.A. degree in social science in 1965. Following four years in the U.S. Air Force, Richardson returned to school, earning an M.S. degree in educational administration from the University of Pennsylvania in 1973, and an Ed.D. in educational administration in 1976.

Following an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Richardson returned to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), where he became director of career planning and placement in 1970, and acting director of admissions and registration the following year. From 1973 to 1974, Richardson worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Pennsylvania, before returning to UMES as director of career planning and placement. In 1975, Richardson was named the executive assistant to the chancellor and became a part-time lecturer. In 1982, Richardson was named assistant to the president of the University of Maryland system, and on November 1, 1984, he was named interim president of Morgan State University. The following year, he became the eleventh president of Morgan State University.

Under Richardson's leadership, Morgan State University has seen an increase in financial gifts and grants, both from alumni and foundations. The student population has nearly doubled, and a number of higher education degrees are now offered at the school, including doctorate programs in engineering, mathematics education and science education.

Richardson leads an active life outside of work. He is a past member of the board of directors of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and is currently a member of the board of directors of the Baltimore Council of Boy Scouts of America, among other organizations. In 1995, Richardson was the recipient of the Profile of a Leader Award from Morgan State University. He has also received both a Distinguished Alumni Award and an honorary

doctorate of laws from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Richardson and his wife Sheila live in Baltimore. They have one son.

Richardson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 12, 2003.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Earl S. Richardson was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 12, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. University president Earl S. Richardson (1943 -) served as the eleventh president of Morgan State University in Baltimore. Under his leadership, both enrollment and financial contributions to the school grew dramatically.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Richardson, Earl S.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Richardson, Earl S.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Morgan State University

Occupations:

University President

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Earl S. Richardson, November 12, 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Earl S. Richardson, Section A2003_264_001_001, TRT: 0:30:16
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Earl S. Richardson was born on September 25, 1943 in Westover, Maryland. He describes his family history. Born on June 7, 1901, Richardson's mother, Lena Mae King, grew up in a poor family in Westover, Maryland. Both her great grandparents and grandmother were enslaved in the Eastern Shore area of Maryland. Richardson's father, Philip Richardson, was born in North Hampton County, Virginia to Lillie and Thomas Richardson and grew up in a farming family. After meeting in Westover, Maryland, Richardson's parents married and had fourteen children. Despite their lack of formal education, both contributed to the family's financial security by working as farmers. Richardson details how his father motivated him to go to college. By telling him he was destined for work in the fields, Richardson's father convinced him to pursue higher education. Richardson enrolled at University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland in 1961.

Video Oral History Interview with Earl S. Richardson, Section A2003_264_001_002, TRT: 0:30:15
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Earl S. Richardson describes the sights, sounds and smells of his childhood in Westover, Maryland. As a student at Somerset Junior-Senior High School in Princess Anne, Maryland, he developed an interest in history. Richardson talks about his religious upbringing, familial responsibilities and extracurricular activities in high school. In addition to working outside the home, he joined the debate team and the yearbook staff. While in college at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, he was trained by civil rights activist, Gloria Richardson Dandridge, and participated in a series of civil rights demonstrations on campus in 1964. In college, Richardson joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and served as class president for three years. After graduating in 1965, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served for four years. Richardson enrolled in graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania upon completion of his military service in 1969.

Video Oral History Interview with Earl S. Richardson, Section A2003_264_001_003, TRT: 0:30:40
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Earl S. Richardson was a Ford Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where he studied educational administration, completing his M.S. degree in 1973 and his Ed.D. degree in 1976. He then returned to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, his alma mater, where he initially worked as an executive assistant to the chancellor before he became special assistant to Dr. John S. Toll, president of the University of Maryland System. In 1984, Richardson became the interim president of Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland after the resignation of Dr. Andrew Billingsley. Richardson talks about the impact of 1960s civil rights measures on historically black colleges and universities [HBCUs]. At Morgan State, he focused on transforming the university into a competitive institution and oversaw university's revitalization and growth in the sciences and in doctoral programs. Richardson would like for society at large to appreciate the value and impact of HBCUs.

Video Oral History Interview with Earl S. Richardson, Section A2003_264_001_004, TRT: 0:16:10
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Earl S. Richardson describes challenges faced by historically black colleges and universities [HBCUs]. He believes that with financial support, HBCUs like Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland can address social problems affecting urban African American communities. As president of Morgan State

University in Baltimore, Maryland, Richardson fought for higher salaries and the growth of the campus infrastructure. Richardson describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, highlighting the need to reduce the educational achievement gap as the community's primary challenge. Richardson also reflects upon his legacy, recalling the students he has counseled throughout his career. He would like to be remembered as an ordinary individual who tried to make a difference in the world.