

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Terrie Williams

PERSON

Williams, Terrie

Alternative Names: Terrie Williams;

Life Dates: May 12, 1954-

Place of Birth: Mt. Vernon, New York, USA

Residence: New York, NY

Occupations: Author; Public Relations Chief
Executive

Biographical Note

Author and public relations entrepreneur Terrie Williams was born in Mt. Vernon, New York, on May 12, 1954. Williams attended Pennington Grade School, where one of her fellow classmates was actor Denzel Washington, and graduated in three years from Mt. Vernon High School in 1971. Williams attended Brandeis University following high school, earning her B.S. degree in psychology in 1975, and then attended Columbia University, where she earned her master's

degree in social work.

After working for a number of years as a social worker, Williams founded the Terrie Williams Agency in 1988, after meeting Miles Davis in the hospital. Williams began representing Davis, and her next big client, Eddie Murphy; since that time, she has gone on to represent superstars such as Janet Jackson, Russell Simmons, Johnnie Cochran, Stephen King, and Sally Jesse Raphael, as well as organizations such as HBO and Essence Communications. The Terrie Williams Agency went on to become a division of PGP Communications, where Williams served as vice chair.

Williams authored three books: *The Personal Touch: What You Really Need to Succeed in Today's Fast-paced Business World*, *Stay Strong: Simple Life Lessons for Teens* and *A Plentiful Harvest: Creating Balance and Harmony Through the Seven Living Virtues*. *Stay Strong* has been used nationwide in schools, and was the catalyst for launching the Stay Strong Foundation, a nationwide non-profit organization for youth.

Williams was a highly sought-after speaker, speaking at engagements with Fortune 500 companies, universities, and numerous other organizations. Williams is the recipient of several awards, including being the first African American to win the New York Women in Communications Matrix Award, and the Citizen's Committee for the New York Marietta Tree Award for Public Service.

In 1998, Williams donated her papers to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, making them the first gift of papers donated in the public relations field.

Related Entries

Mount Vernon High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Pennington Grade School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Brandeis University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Columbia University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

PGP Communications [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 196804 to 197006]

Vice Chair

Essence Magazine [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1988]

Director of Public Relations

Terrie Williams Agency [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to ?]

Founder and Agent

Stay Strong Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder