

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Marcia Cantarella

PERSON

Cantarella, Marcia Young,
1946-

Alternative Names: Marcia Cantarella;

Life Dates: October 31, 1946-

Place of Birth: Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Residence: New York, NY

Occupations: ; Foundation Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Corporate executive and school administrator Marcia Elaine Young Cantarella was born on October 31, 1946, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Margaret Buckner Young and late civil rights leader Whitney M. Young, Jr. Cantarella attended Bryn Mawr College and graduated with honors in 1968 after earning her B.A. degree in political science. For two years, she audited American Studies and law courses at the University of

Iowa before moving to New York City in 1972.

Cantarella began working for Avon Products, Inc. in public affairs as a manager, focusing on minority and women's affairs and issues of affirmative action. In 1973, she joined the board of directors for the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and became chair of the Committee for Board and Service Volunteers. A year later, Cantarella joined the Women and Foundations Group, became a member of the Association of Black Foundation Executives and joined the nomination and health maintenance organization committee for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Greater New York. She would remain active in all four organizations until 1980.

In 1976, Cantarella was promoted by Avon Products, Inc. to Director of Public Affairs, where she would remain for four more years. During her tenure, Cantarella revamped the Avon Products Foundation in order to focus on women's issues and moved the organization past monetary donations to focus on volunteerism. In 1980, she was again promoted by Avon, becoming Director of Special Markets, where she spent two years working with minority markets.

In 1985, Cantarella left Avon Products, Inc. and became a work and family issues consultant. Her major clients included New York University and Catalyst, Inc., an organization that works to further the roles of women in the workplace. In 1988, Cantarella was named Executive Director of the National Coalition for Women's Enterprise, a women's self-employment and advocacy organization. In 1989, Cantarella returned to school and in 1996 earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American Studies with a concentration in American Business from New York University.

Cantarella became Director of Academic Enhancement Programs at New York University at the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1999, Cantarella was named Assistant Dean of Princeton University, where she was

responsible for the Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program. In 2002, Cantarella was named Vice President for Student Affairs at the Metropolitan College of New York and in 2005, became Acting Associate Dean for Student Opportunities at Hunter College. Cantarella continues to serve in leadership roles on not-for-profit boards and committees.

Marcia Cantarella was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 20, 2007 and July 20, 2007.

Related Entries

Oglethorpe Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

New Rochelle High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Simmons College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Certificate

Bryn Mawr College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lothrop Magnet Center [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Iowa [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

New York University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A. and Ph.D.

Robert F. Kennedy's Office [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Intern

National Urban League [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Rabat American School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 1971]

Teacher

Avon Products, inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1985]

Various

[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1992]

Consultant

National Coalition for Women's Enterprise
[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1989]

Executive Director

New York University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1992 to 1999]

**Director, Academic Achievement Program,
College of Arts and Science**

New York University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995 to 1999]

**Director, Academic Enhancement Programs in
the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and
Science**

Princeton University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to 2002]

Assistant Dean of the College

Metropolitan College of New York [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to 2005]

Vice President of Student Affairs

Hunter College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2005 to ?]

**Acting Associate Dean for Student Opportunities,
School of Arts and Science**

New York University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1995 to 199905]

**Adjunct Faculty in the Gallatin School for
Individualized Study**

Women's Leadership Exchange [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

Trickle Up Program [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Trustee and Chair of the Development Committee

Fourth Universalist Society [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Chair of Internship Committee

World Education (Volunteer) Corps [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Training Consultant

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Goldman Center for Youth and Families [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies [MEMBEROF]

[from 1973 to 1980]

**Board of Directors and Chair of the Planning
Committee for Board and Service Volunteers**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Greater New York [MEMBEROF]
[from 1974 to 1980]

Board of Directors

Association of Black Foundation Executives [MEMBEROF]
[from 1974 to 1980]

Member

Women and Foundations Group [MEMBEROF]
[from 1974 to 1980]

New York Regional Association of Grantmakers
[MEMBEROF]
[from 1975 to 1980]

Founding Board member

Children's Museum of Manhattan [MEMBEROF]
[from 1987 to 1991]

Board of Directors

Equity Institute [MEMBEROF]
[from 1990 to 1993]

Board of Directots