

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Adrienne Bailey

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Bailey, Adrienne, 1944- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Adrienne Bailey, |
| Dates: | November 4, 2008 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2008 |
| Physical Description: | 5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:29:50). |
| Abstract: | Education consultant Adrienne Bailey (1944 -) dedicated her career to education, served as a teacher, education coordinator at the Government Office of Human Resources, and as the university coordinator of the Northwestern Community Education Project. Bailey also served a six-year appointment on State Board of Education, and served on the Government Educational Advancement Committee. Bailey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 4, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2008_121 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educational consultant Adrienne Yvonne Bailey was born on November 24, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois to Julia Spalding Bailey and Leroy Bailey. Bailey received her B.A. degree from Mundelein College in 1966 and her M.A. degree in education from Wayne State University in 1969. Bailey received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1973.

In Chicago, Bailey taught social studies, English, French and mathematics at Deneen Elementary School and was the neighborhood youth corps supervisor at the South Shore YMCA and the program coordinator for the Circle Maxwell YMCA in the late 1960s. Bailey then worked as the education coordinator at the Government Office of Human Resources from 1969 to 1971 and as the university coordinator of the Northwestern Community Education Project at Northwestern University from 1972 to 1973. In 1973, Bailey was appointed to a six-year term on the State Board of Education, and from 1973 to 1981, Bailey was a senior staff associate at Chicago Community Trust. She has also served as vice president of the National Association of State Boards of Education. Bailey was the Vice President of Academic Affairs for the College Board of New York in 1981 and on the Education and Career Development Advisory Committee of the Urban League in 1982. Bailey then served on the Government Educational Advancement Committee from 1983 through 1987, while also serving on the National Committee on Secondary Schooling for Hispanics from 1983 to 1985.

Bailey is currently serving as an ExEL (Executive Leadership Program for Urban Education) at Harvard University.

Bailey was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 4, 2008.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Adrienne Bailey was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 4, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Education consultant Adrienne Bailey (1944 -) dedicated her career to education, served as a teacher, education coordinator at the Government Office of Human Resources, and as the university coordinator of the Northwestern Community Education Project. Bailey also served a six-year appointment on State Board of Education, and served on the Government Educational Advancement Committee.

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:

Bailey, Adrienne, 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bailey, Adrienne, 1944---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

Occupations:

Education Consultant

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 Adrienne Bailey, November 4, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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 Adrienne Bailey, Section
A2008_121_001_001, TRT: 0:30:10 2008/11/04

Adrienne Bailey was born on November 24, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois to Julia Spalding Bailey and Leroy Bailey. Her maternal great-grandmother, Dora Pittman Yarber, was a white Austrian who immigrated to Chicago's North Side, where she married James Yarber, an African American man. Bailey's maternal grandparents, housewife Christine Yarber Spalding and police officer Alonzo Spalding, lived in the Woodlawn neighborhood; and her paternal grandparents, housewife Pricilla Smith Bailey and janitor Floyd Bailey, also raised their family on Chicago's South Side. Bailey's parents both studied at Woodrow Wilson Junior College, until her father was drafted to the U.S. Army. After returning from World War II, he joined the Chicago Police Department, while her mother worked for the American Red Cross, and then as a truant officer upon graduating from Loyola University. When Bailey was in the fourth grade, her family moved to Chicago's Park Manor. Later, after her parents divorced, she lived with her maternal grandparents.

Video Oral History Interview with Adrienne Bailey, Section
A2008_121_001_002, TRT: 0:30:30 2008/11/04

Adrienne Bailey attended the Holy Cross School in Chicago, Illinois, and then transferred to the St. Dorothy School. There, she was ostracized for her race, and her mother removed her from class after she experienced discrimination from the faculty. She returned after the school diversified, and was mentored by music teacher Sister Mary Leonette. In 1958, Bailey entered Mercy High School, where she was one of a few black students, as well as the president of the French club. She matriculated at Central State College in Wilberforce, Ohio; and, after one year, was encouraged by Leonette to transfer to Chicago's Mundelein College. There, she studied French; and, in her

junior year, studied abroad in France. She was the sole black student in her immersive courses at the University of Paris. After graduation, Bailey earned a fellowship to teach French at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine. However, her class was cancelled, and she returned to teach seventh grade social studies in the Chicago Public Schools.

Video Oral History Interview with Adrienne Bailey, Section
A2008_121_001_003, TRT: 0:31:10 2008/11/04

Adrienne Bailey served as a program coordinator at the Circle Maxwell YMCA in 1967, and organized programs with the University of Illinois at Chicago. She also joined the Civil Rights Movement, and befriended activists Nancy Jefferson and Robert C. Strom. From 1968, Bailey pursued a master's degree in educational sociology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She completed her degree in one year, and received a scholarship to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. While studying educational administration there, she was mentored by Professor William R. Hazard, and befriended educator Iva Carruthers. Bailey earned a Ph.D. degree in 1973, and became the first African American to work in local private philanthropy at the Chicago Community Trust, where she oversaw higher education grant initiatives. In 1974, Illinois Governor Dan Walker appointed Bailey to the Illinois State Board of Education; and, in 1978, she was elected president of the National Association of State Boards of Education.

Video Oral History Interview with Adrienne Bailey, Section
A2008_121_001_004, TRT: 0:28:50 2008/11/04

Adrienne Bailey served as president of the National Association of State Boards of Education. In this position, she led international delegations of school administrators to countries like China, Japan and South Africa. In 1978, she was appointed to serve as the vice president of academic affairs at the College Board. Bailey was the first African American in this role, and led the Educational Equality Project reform initiative. She also oversaw twenty educational publications. In 1990, Bailey was recruited as the deputy superintendent for instructional services by Chicago Superintendent Ted D. Kimbrough.

She developed one of the first multicultural public education policies, and implemented the curriculum of educator Jacob H. Carruthers, Jr. and activist Conrad Walter Worrill. In 1994, Bailey founded an education consulting firm, where her clients included the Council of the Great City Schools in Washington, D.C., and the Mississippi Action for Community Education, Inc., an academic reform initiative.

Video Oral History Interview with Adrienne Bailey, Section
A2008_121_001_005, TRT: 0:29:10 2008/11/04

Adrienne Bailey was a consultant for the U.S. Department of Education, where she reviewed state plans for compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. In 2005, Bailey joined the Stupski Foundation, where she focused on educational leadership reform in the City of Cleveland, Ohio and the City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. From 2007, Bailey worked for the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, where she served as an executive leadership coach in the Worcester Public Schools. She also helped Strategic Philanthropy, Ltd. mobilize philanthropic wealth to close the achievement gap. Bailey talks about educators like Dr. James Comer, Robert Parris Moses and Asa Hilliard, III; her educational philosophy; and her hopes and concerns for education in the African American community. She also reflects upon her life, legacy and family. Bailey describes how she would like to be remembered, and concludes the interview by narrating her photographs.