

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Chrystine Ramsey Shack

PERSON

Shack, Ethel Chrystine, 1926-
2010

Alternative Names: Chrystine Ramsey Shack; Ethel
Chrystine Ramsey Shack

Life Dates: November 18, 1926-August 16, 2010

Place of Birth: Memphis, Tennessee, USA

Occupations: Civic Leader; Education Executive

Biographical Note

Educator Chrystine Ramsey Shack was born on November 18, 1926 in Memphis, Tennessee. She attended The College of New Jersey where she received her B.A. degree and earned elementary education certification. She continued her education at Rider College in New Jersey where she received her

M.A. degree.

In 1952, Shack became a document custodian for Project Matterhorn B, a magnetic fusion research project under the direction of Lyman Spitzer, Jr. at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. Shack was in charge of filing and transferring top secret documents at the laboratory. After Project Matterhorn, Shack went back to school to earn her Ph.D. from Rutgers University in New Jersey. In the late 1960's, Shack began working for the New Jersey State Department of Education in Trenton. She then moved to Michigan where she worked in the Department of Vocational Education in Lansing. While in Michigan, Shack contributed a chapter to a publication funded by the Michigan Business Education Association on business curriculum. In 1981, she was named president of Highland Park Community College and was the first woman president of a community college in Michigan.

Shack has served in several capacities as a leader of The Girl Friends, Inc. including as national secretary, parliamentarian, national advisory board chair, president of the Girl Friends' fund, national budget chair, and national president in 1978. She was profiled in the book *They Made It – So Can You*, showcasing her career development and was the subject of a senate concurrent resolution praising her academic accomplishments in 1981. She also served on several business associations including the United Business Education Association and chaired their Consumer Economics board.

Chrystine Shack was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 24, 2010.

Related Entries

Florida Street Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Booker T. Washington High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wilberforce University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Rider College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.B.A.

Rutgers University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Trenton State College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Certificate

Colorado State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Curriculum Development

Central State College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1947 to 1947]

Assistant to the Bursar

Hampton Institute [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1947 to 1948]

Secretary to the Dean of Students

Bordentown Manual Training School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1948 to 1950]

Secretary to the Superintendent

Princeton University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1950 to 1955]

Secretary to the Director of Project Matterhorn

Hamilton Township Public Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1955 to 1958]

Elementary Teacher

Trenton State College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1955 to 1966]

Supervising Teacher

Migrant Demonstration Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1956 to 1959]

Teacher

Hamilton Township Public Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1958 to 1966]

Business Education Instructor

Migrant Demonstration Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1958 to 1960]

Teaching Principal

Rider College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1958 to 1966]

Supervising Teacher

Migrant Demonstration Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1960 to 1962]

Assistant Director

Migrant Demonstration Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1963 to 1966]

Principal of Cranbury School

Hamilton Township Public Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to 1966]

Coordinator of Cooperative Office Education

State Department of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to 1969]

**State Supervisor of Business and Office
Occupations Education**

Mercer County Community College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to 1968]

Instructor

Rider College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to 1972]

Instructor at the Graduate School of Education

Rutgers University Graduate School of Education
[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1970]

Co-Adjutant Faculty Member

State Department of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 1971]

Director of Program Development

New Jersey State Department of Education
[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1971 to 1972]

**Consultant in Teacher Education and
Certification**

Michigan State Department of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1974]

Consultant for Post-Secondary Programs

**Michigan State University Graduate School of
Education** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1974 to 1974]

Co-Adjutant Faculty Member

Highland Park Community College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1974 to 1977]

**Director of the Advanced Institutional
Development Program**

Wayne County Community College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to 1978]

Instructor

Highland Park Community College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1978]

Vice President for Instruction

Highland Park Community College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1979]

Acting President

Highland Park Community College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to 1986]

President

National Business Education Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Executive Board Member

Eastern Business Education Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Executive Board Member

New Jersey Education Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Trenton Area Council of Girl Scouts [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Secretary and Board Member

New Jersey Mental Health Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

**New Jersey Migrant Labor Board Advisory
Committee** [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Trenton Human Relations Council [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Young Women's Christian Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member of Personnel Committee

National Education Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

American Vocational Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Michigan Business Education Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

National Business Education Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

American Association of University Women [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Council of Black American Affairs [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

National Child Labor Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from 1958 to 1966]

Consultant

Student New Jersey Education Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1959 to 1961]

State Chairwoman

Trenton Public Schools [MEMBEROF]

[from 1968 to 1971]

**Vice President and Member of Board of
Education**

Model Cities Planning Committee [MEMBEROF]
[from 1968 to 1971]

Member

Peat, Marwick and Mitchell Company [MEMBEROF]
[from 1972 to 1973]

Educational Consultant

US Office of Education [MEMBEROF]
[from 1976 to 1976]

Consultant