

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dori Maynard

PERSON

Maynard, Dori J.

Alternative Names: Dori Maynard;

Life Dates: May 4, 1958-February 24, 2015

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Work: Oakland, CA

Occupations: Journalism Professor

Biographical Note

Journalism Professor Dori Maynard was born on May 4, 1958 in New York, New York. She was raised by her father, Robert C. Maynard and step-mother, Nancy Hicks Maynard. In 1977, Maynard's parents founded the Institute for Journalism Education, a nonprofit organization dedicated to training journalists of color and improving diversity in the media. They became the first African American owners of a major metropolitan newspaper when they bought The Oakland Tribune in 1984. Maynard attended Middlebury College and

graduated with her B.A. degree in American history. After graduation she worked for The Bakersfield Californian, The Patriot Ledger, and the Detroit Free Press. In 1992, Maynard was awarded a Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University. Maynard and her father were the first father-daughter duo to have received this award. Maynard specialized in researching public policy and poverty. When her father passed away in 1993, Maynard began work on Letters to My Children, a compilation of nationally syndicated columns written by her father with introductions written by Maynard. The book was published in 1995.

In 1994, Maynard began working at the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, renamed after Robert Maynard's death. Maynard worked on the Fault Lines project, a concept her father had originated, which later became the Institute's organizing principle for diversity initiatives. Maynard also began work on the History Project, a groundbreaking archive documenting and preserving the stories of African American journalists who integrated mainstream media in the 1960s and 1970s.

In 2001, Maynard was appointed president of the Robert C. Maynard Institute and she received the "Fellow of Society" award from the Society of Professional Journalists that same year. In 2004, Maynard was named one of the "10 Most Influential African Americans in the Bay Area" by CityFlight Media Network. Maynard has written many articles dealing with issues of race and diversity in the media. She has also written on her attempts to live on the "fault lines" in her daily life.

Maynard died of lung cancer on February 24, 2015, at the age of 56.

Dori Maynard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 9, 2011.

Related Entries

Downtown Community School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Georgetown Day School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Woodrow Wilson High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Middlebury College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Robert C. Maynard Journalism Institute [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 2011]

President

Californian, The [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1989 to 1992]

Reporter

Detroit Free Press [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1989]

Reporter

Patriot Ledger [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

Reporter

Robert C. Maynard Institute [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

President

Chauncey Bailey Project [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

America's Wire [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]