

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with J. K. Haynes

PERSON

Haynes, John Kermit, 1943-

**Alternative Names:** J. K. Haynes;

**Life Dates:** October 30, 1943-

**Place of Birth:** Monroe, Louisiana, USA

**Residence:** College Park, GA

**Work:** Atlanta, GA

**Occupations:** Academic Administrator; Biologist;

## Biographical Note

Biologist and academic administrator John K. “J.K.” Haynes was born on October 30, 1943 in Monroe, Louisiana to John and Grace Haynes. His mother was a teacher and his father was the principal of Lincoln High School in Ruston, Louisiana. Haynes began first grade when he was four years old. When he was six, his family moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Haynes began attending Southern University

Laboratory School. He attended Morehouse College when he was seventeen and he received his B.S. degree in biology in 1964. Haynes aspired to attend medical school. However, a professor advised him to apply to graduate school and he went on to attend Brown University, where he obtained his Ph.D. degree in biology in 1970.

Haynes completed his first year of postdoctoral research at Brown University, where he worked on restriction enzymes. During this time, he became interested in sickle cell anemia, which led to a second postdoctoral appointment in biochemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he worked with Vernon Ingram, the scientist who discovered the amino acid difference between normal and sickle cell hemoglobin. In 1973, Haynes joined the faculty at the Meharry Medical School as a junior faculty member in the department of genetics and molecular medicine and the department of anatomy. His research was focused on why sickle cells were less deformable than normal. In 1979, he returned to Morehouse College as an associate professor of biology as well as the director of the Office of Health Professions. As part of his work, Haynes created a program for high school students interested in medical school. Haynes has also helped recruit minority students into science with the assistance of agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Haynes became the endowed David E. Packard Chair in Science at Morehouse College and chairman of the biology department in 1985. In 1991, he took a sabbatical and went to Brown University to continue his work on sickle cells. Since 1999, he has served as Dean of Science and Mathematics at Morehouse College.

Under Haynes administrative leadership, new buildings for both chemistry and biology were built at Morehouse College as well as a curriculum with an emphasis on lab work. Haynes has published papers on

cell biology as well as on undergraduate STEM education.

J. K. Haynes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 14, 2011.

## Related Entries

**Southern University Laboratory School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Morehouse College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S. Biology**

**Brown University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D. Developmental Biology**

**Meharry Medical College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Assistant Professor**

**Morehouse College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1962 to 1965]

**Professor, Chair, Dean**

**Brown University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1970 to 1971]

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1971 to 1973]

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

**Meharry Medical College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1973 to 1978]

**Assistant Professor**

**Morehouse College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1979 to ?]

**Professor and Dean**

**Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board of Directors**

**World Learning/ School for International Training**  
[MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board of Directors**

**American Society for Cell Biology** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Project Kaleidoscope** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**American Chemical Society (ACS)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1968 to 1970]

**Member**

[MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chair, Committee on Minorities**

[MEMBEROF]  
[from 1990 to ?]

[MEMBEROF]  
[from 2004 to ?]

**Board Member**

