Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Valerie Taylor

Taylor, Valerie Elaine

Alternative Names: Valerie Taylor;

Life Dates: May 24, 1963-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Lemont, Illinois

Work: Lemont, IL

Occupations: Computer Scientist;

Biographical Note

Computer science and engineering professor Valerie E. Taylor was born on May 24, 1963. She attended Purdue University where she received her B.S. degree in computer and electrical engineering in 1985 and her M.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1986. She continued her education at the University of California at Berkeley where she received her Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering and computer science in 1991.

That same year, Taylor joined the faculty at Northwestern University as an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. She became an associate professor in 1997 and then a full professor in 2002. In 2003, Taylor transferred to Texas A&M University where she was named head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering as well as the Stewart & Stevenson Professor. Since 2004, Taylor has been the Royce E. Wisenbaker Professor and head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Her research interests lie in high performance computing. Taylor is currently working on "Prophesy," a database used to collect and analyze data to predict the performance on different applications on parallel systems. She has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the "OptiPuter" and "New Approaches to Human Potential Realization through Information Technology Research" as well as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) University Research, Engineering and Technology Institutes (URETI) Program for "Nanoelectronics." Currently, she is funded by the National Science Foundation to use Prophesy in conjunction with two other tools for the purpose of exploring the performance and power for applications on current parallel systems.

In 2001, Taylor received the Pathbreaker Award from the Women in Leadership at

Northwestern University and the Hewlett Packard Harriet B. Rigas Education Award. The following year, Taylor was named a Young Outstanding Leader by the University of California, Berkeley's Distinguished Engineering Alumni Society. That same year she also received the Computing Research Association's (CRA) A. Nico Habermann Award for outstanding contributions aimed at increasing the numbers and/or successes of underrepresented groups in the computing research community. She has also been recognized as a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer and in 2005, Taylor was given the Richard A. Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing. Since 2008, Taylor has served on the Board of Directors for the Computing Research Association.

Related Entries

Purdue University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

>**B.S.**

Purdue University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

>**M.S.**

University of California, Berkeley [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

>**Ph.D.**

Maria High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Leo Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Northwestern University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 2001]

>**Associate Professor**

Northwestern University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to 2003]

>**Professor**

Texas A&M University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to ?]

>**Department Chair, Computer Science and Engineering**

Institute African American E-Culture [MEMBEROF]
[from 2001 to ?]

>**Founder**

Computing Research Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 2005 to ?]

Board Member