

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Slaughter

PERSON

**Slaughter, John Brooks, 1934-**

**Alternative Names:** John Slaughter;

**Life Dates:** March 16, 1934-

**Place of Birth:** Topeka, Kansas, USA

**Residence:** Pasadena, CA

**Work:** Los Angeles, CA

**Occupations:** Electrical Engineer; Education  
Administrator

## Biographical Note

Electrical engineer and academic administrator John brooks Slaughter was born in Topeka, Kansas, on March 16, 1934. His father, Reuben Brooks Slaughter, was hard-working and held a variety of jobs to support his family; and, his mother, Dora Reeves Slaughter, was a homemaker. Slaughter graduated from Topeka High School in 1951 and enrolled at Washburn

University, but transferred after two years to attend Kansas State University. There, he earned his B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1956. Slaughter went on to receive his Ph.D. in engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1961, and his Ph.D. in engineering sciences from the University of California, San Diego in 1971.

Slaughter joined the U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory in San Diego in 1960. In 1975, he became Director of the Applied Physics Laboratory of the University of Washington; and, in 1977, Slaughter was appointed Assistant Director for Astronomics, Atmospheric, Earth and Ocean Sciences at the National Science Foundation. From 1979 to 1980, Slaughter was Provost and Academic Vice President at Washington State University. Then, he serves as the director of the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C. for two years. Between 1982 and 1988, Slaughter was the Chancellor of the University of Maryland, College Park, where he made major advances in the recruitment and retention of African-American students and faculty. Slaughter then was elected President of Occidental College in Los Angeles from 1988 through July 1999. In August 1999, he assumed the position of Melbo Professor of Leadership in Education at the University of Southern California. In June 2000, Slaughter was named President and CEO of The National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc.

Slaughter holds honorary degrees from more than 25 institutions of higher education. He was also a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Award in 1997, and UCLA's Medal of Excellence in 1989. Slaughter was honored with the first U.S. Black Engineer of the Year award in 1987, and received the Arthur M. Bueche Award from the National Academy of Engineering in 2004, where he is also a fellow. Slaughter is married to Dr. Ida Bernice Slaughter, an educational consultant and former school administrator. They have two children: a son, Dr. John

Brooks Slaughter, Jr., DVM, and a daughter, Ms. Jacqueline Michelle Slaughter.

John Brooks Slaughter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 28, 2012.

## Related Entries

**University of California, Los Angeles** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.S.**

**University of California, San Diego** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Kansas State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Topeka High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Convair** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1965 to ?]

**United States Naval Electronic Laboratory Center**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1960 to 1975]

**Director, Information Systems Technology  
Department**

**United States Naval Applied Physics Laboratory**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1975 to ?]

**Director**

**University of Washington** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1975 to 1977]

## **Professor**

**Washington State University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1979 to 1979]

## **Academic Vice President and Provost**

**National Science Foundation (NSF)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1980 to 1982]

## **Director**

**University of Maryland, College Park** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1988]

## **Chancellor/President**

**Occidental College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1998 to 1999]

## **President**

**University of Southern California** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1999 to 2000]

## **Irving R. Melbo Professor of Leadership in Education**

**National Action Council for Minorities in  
Engineering, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2000 to 2009]

## **President and CEO**

**American Association for the Advancement of  
Science (AAAS)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**National Academy of Engineering (NAE)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1956 to ?]

## **President**

**National Academy of Engineering (NAE)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1982 to ?]

**Viterbi School of Engineering Center for Engineering  
Diversity** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2010 to ?]

**Chair/Faculty Advisory Board Member**

**Undergraduate Education Subcommittee of the  
University Strategic Planning Committee** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2011 to 2011]

**Member**

**Diversity Subcommittee of the University Committee  
on Curriculum** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2011 to 2012]

**Member**

**Diversity Committee of the Rossier School of  
Education** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2011 to ?]

**Member**

**Salary, Promotion and Tenure Committee of the  
Rossier School of Education** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2011 to ?]

**Member**