

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

PERSON

Slaughter, John , 1934-

Alternative Names: Slaughter, John , 1934-;

Life Dates: March 16, 1934-

Place of Birth: Topeka, Kansas

Residence: Pasadena , California

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; 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 M.S. degree in engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1961, and his Ph.D. degree 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, Atmospherics, Earth and Ocean Sciences at the National Science Foundation. From 1979 to 1980, Slaughter was Provost and Academic Vice President at Washington State University. From 1980 to 1982, he served as the director of the National Science Foundation in

Washington D.C. Between 1982 and 1988, Slaughter was the Chancellor of the University of Maryland, College Park, where he made major advances in 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 thirty institutions of higher education. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1982 and received its Arthur M. Bueche Award for statesmanship in science and technology in 2004; is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; an Eminent Member of the Eta Kappa Nu Association honorary electrical engineering society; a member of the American Society of Engineering Education Hall of Fame, the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Sigma Tau honorary engineering society.

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

Slaughter, Laura [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandmother

Slaughter, Louis [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandfather

Reeves, Sadie [GRANDCHILD OF]
Maternal Grandmother

Reeves, David [GRANDCHILD OF]
Maternal Grandfather

Slaughter, Dora Reeves [CHILD OF]
Mother

Slaughter, II, John Brooks [PARENT OF]
Son

Slaughter, Dora Deane [SIBLING OF]

Sister

Johnson, Sara Elizabeth [SIBLINGOF]

Sister

Slaughter, Rueben Brooks [CHILDOF]

Father

Slaughter, Jacqueline Michelle [PARENTOF]

Daughter

Johnson, Marilyn Jo [SIBLINGOF]

Sister

University of California, Los Angeles [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1961]

M.S.

University of California, San Diego [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1971]

Ph.D.

Kansas State University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1956]

B.S.

Topeka High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1951]

Convair [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to 1960]

United State 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 [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 [MEMBEROF]

National Academy of Engineering [MEMBEROF]

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc [MEMBEROF]

President

National Academy of Engineering [MEMBEROF]

Viterbi School of Engineering Center for Engineering Diversity

[MEMBEROF]

Chair/Faculty Advisory Board Member

Undergraduate Education Subcommittee of the University Strategic

Planning Committee [MEMBEROF]

Member

Diversity Subcommittee of the University Committee on Curriculum

[MEMBEROF]

Member

Diversity Committee of the Rossier School of Education [MEMBEROF]

Member

Salary, Promotion and Tenure Committee of the Rossier School of

Education [MEMBEROF]

Member