

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jennie Patrick

PERSON

Patrick, Jennie R., 1949-

Alternative Names: Jennie Patrick;

Life Dates: January 1, 1949-

Place of Birth: Gadsden, Alabama, USA

Residence: Peachtree City, GA

Occupations: Chemical Engineer

Biographical Note

Chemical engineer Jennie R. Patrick was born in Gadsden, Alabama on January 1, 1949. Her parents had only achieved schooling up to the sixth grade, with James working as a janitor and Elizabeth working as a maid. They encouraged Jennie and her four siblings to excel in their studies as a way to escape poverty. In 1964 Patrick attended Gadsden High School, a previously all white high school that was forced to integrate due to the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision. She graduated with honors in 1967 and then attended Tuskegee Institute until 1970, when the chemical engineering program was eliminated. Patrick transferred to the University of California at Berkeley, and received her B.S. degree in 1973. She went on to earn her Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1979.

Upon graduation, Patrick was hired in various positions in the chemical research and development industry, including General Electric, the Philip Morris Research Facility and the Rohm and Haas Company in Bristol. She was at Rohm and Haas for five years until 1990, when she became the assistant to the executive vice president at Southern Company Services in Birmingham, Alabama. Patrick also served as an adjunct professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute from 1980 to 1983, and at Georgia Institute of Technology from 1983 to 1987. Patrick returned to Tuskegee University in 1993 as the 3M Eminent Scholar and Professor of Chemical Engineering. In addition to her teaching duties, Patrick is developing research projects in material sciences, is actively involved in leadership roles at Tuskegee, and remains firmly committed to helping minority students find success, particularly in the fields of science and engineering. Patrick later worked as a senior consultant with Raytheon Engineers and Constructors in Birmingham and, in 2000, she founded Education & Environmental Solutions.

Patrick has received recognition from professional and academic organization, including the American Association of University Women Post-doctoral Fellowship, the National Fellowship Foundation Scholarship, the Outstanding Women in Science and Engineering Award. In 1983, she was featured in the “Exceptional Black Scientist” poster series by CIBA-GEIGY Corp.

Patrick works and lives in Metro Atlanta, Georgia with her husband, Dr. Benjamin Glover.

Jennie R. Patrick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 14, 2012.

Related Entries

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Sc.D.

James L. Cain Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

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

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

Tuskegee University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

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

B.S.

General Electric Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to 1983]

Staff Engineer

Philip Morris Research Center [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

Project Manager

Rohm and Haas Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1990]

Research Department Manager

Southern Company Services [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 1993]

Assistant to Executive Vice President

Tuskegee University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to 1997]

3M Eminent Scholar/Professor

Raytheon Engineers & Constructors [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 2000]

Senior Consultant

Environmental Wellness Institute [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2000 to ?]

Founder

Commission on Engineering and Technical System Air Force Studies Board
[MEMBEROF]
[from 1982 to 1987]

Board Member

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corporation Visiting Committee [MEMBEROF]
[from 1986 to ?]

Board Member

UC Berkeley Visiting Committee for the Chemical Engineer Dept. [MEMBEROF]
[from 1993 to 1995]

Board Member

Birmingham Public Schools Science and Math Advisory Board [MEMBEROF]
[from 1988 to ?]

Board Member

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from 1997 to 1999]

Board Member