

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William A. Hawkins

PERSON

Hawkins, William Anthony,
1947-

Alternative Names: William A. Hawkins;

Life Dates: September 15, 1947-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia,
USA

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Program Director; Math Professor;

Biographical Note

Program director and math professor William Anthony Hawkins, Jr. was born in Washington, D.C. in 1947. His father, William Anthony Hawkins, Sr., was a postal worker; his mother, Amanda L. Hawkins, a dental hygienist. After graduating from Archbishop

Carroll High School in 1964, Hawkins briefly attended Merrimack College before transferring to Howard University. While there, he studied under Dr. Louise Raphael, Professor James Joseph, and Dr. Arthur Thorpe (physics) and went on to graduate with his B.S. degree in mathematics in 1968. In 1970, Hawkins received his M.S. degree in physics from Howard University and his M.A. degree in mathematics from the University of Michigan. He was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship while attending the University of Michigan where he studied under Dr. James S. Milne and graduated from there with his Ph.D. degree in mathematics in 1982.

Hawkins has dedicated over forty-three years to the education of minority students. In 1968, Hawkins was hired as a teacher at Cardozo High School in Washington, D.C., soon discovering his passion for teaching. In 1970, Hawkins was appointed as an instructor at Federal City College (University of the District of Columbia). He went on to serve as chair of the mathematics department of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) for five years. In 1990, Hawkins took leave from his position as associate professor at UDC and became director of the Strengthening Underrepresented Minority Mathematics Achievement (SUMMA) Program at the Mathematical Association of America. SUMMA has raised more than \$4 million to increase the representation of minorities in mathematics, science, and engineering and to improve the mathematics education of minorities. In 1995, Hawkins returned to UDC as an associate professor in the mathematics department while simultaneously directing the SUMMA program.

Hawkins authored *Attracting Minorities into Teaching Mathematics* 1994, and *Constructing a Secure Pipeline for Minority Students* 1995. Hawkins is a member of the Mathematical Association of America, the National Association of Mathematicians, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He received the 2006 Benjamin

Banneker Legacy Award from the Banneker Institute of Science & Technology, and the 2013 Gung and Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics from the Mathematical Association of America.

William Anthony Hawkins, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 17, 2013.

Related Entries

University of Michigan [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

University of Michigan [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Cardozo High School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to ?]

Teacher

University of the District of Columbia [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Teacher

University of the District of Columbia [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to ?]

Teacher

Federal City College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197009 to 197408]

Teacher

Mathematical Association of America [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1976 to ?]

Project Director

Mathematical Association of America (MAA)

[MEMBEROF]

[from 199009 to ?]

Project Director

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from 19901 to ?]

Member