

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ruth Campbell

PERSON

Campbell, Ruth Batton, 1939-

**Alternative Names:** Ruth Campbell;

**Life Dates:** June 30, 1939-

**Residence:** Madison, MS

**Occupations:** Producer; Public Relations Director

## Biographical Note

Producer and public relations director Ruth Campbell was born on June 30, 1939 in Benton, Mississippi to Viola Brice and Cleophas Batton. Campbell received her A.A. degree from Coahoma Junior College in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1959, her B.S. degree in language arts from Jackson State College in Natchez, Mississippi, in 1961, and her M.A. degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in 1970.

Campbell taught English, French, public speaking and literature as a public school teacher before she worked

with the Mississippi Research and Development Center as a market analyst. She later entered broadcasting at the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television, where she served as host of the longest running minority-oriented public affairs series in the state. She served as script editor, producer, director, and became the executive producer for all public affairs programming at the network. Then, Campbell was appointed special assistant of scheduling to the Governor of Mississippi, Ray Mabus. Campbell then served for four years as associate director at the Jackson State University School of Lifelong Learning, where she also taught speech and mass communication. She then worked as manager of customer service at Trilogy Communications, Inc. and as public relations director for MetroCenter Mall. In 1999, Campbell became the public information officer for the City of Jackson's Parks and Recreation. In 2008, Campbell became the deputy director for the Jackson's Department of Human and Cultural Services.

Campbell has received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to her community. She has been the recipient of a Humanitarian Award from the University of Southern Mississippi, Presidential Citation for Alumni of the Year Award, a Distinguished Leadership Award from the Pearl Street AME Church, and a Founders Award from the National Black Programming Consortium, among others.

Campbell chaired the National Black Programming Consortium and also served on the advisory board for Catholic Charities, the advisory council for 21st Century Community Learning Center, and as a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and Friends of Public Broadcasting, which is within the Mississippi Educational Television Network.

Ruth Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers

on May 24, 2017.

## Related Entries

**Edmund Burke Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Felton Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

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

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

**Omaha North High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

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

**Mississippi Educational TV** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1974 to 1987]

**Executive Producer**

**The Governor's Office** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 1988]

**Scheduler**

**The University Center** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1988 to 1992]

**Associate Director**

**Jackson State University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1992 to 1993]

**Associate Professor**

**Trilogy Communications** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1993 to 1994]

**Customer Service Manager**

**Metro Center Mall** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1994 to 1997]

**Director of Public Relations**

**City of Jackson** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1998 to 2005]

**Deputy Director**