

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jerry Sue Thornton

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Thornton, Jerry Sue
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Sue Thornton,
Dates:	September 27, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (1:44:21).
Abstract:	College president Jerry Sue Thornton (1949-) served as president of Lakewood Community College and Cuyahoga Community College. Thornton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 27, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_197
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

College president Jerry Sue Thornton was born on January 16, 1947 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to Clarence and Dorothy Pritchett. She attended the J. W. Million Elementary School, and graduated from Earlington High School. Thornton received her B.A. degree in English and speech from Murray State College in 1969, and her M.A. degree in communications from Murray State University in 1970. She attended Northern Illinois University, and earned her Ph.D. degree in educational administration at The University of Texas at Austin in 1983. She attended Harvard University's Institute for the Management of Lifelong Education in 1988.

Thornton taught at Earlington Junior High School, in Earlington, Kentucky in 1969; and at Murray High School, in Murray, Kentucky in 1970. The following year, she moved to River Grove, Illinois where she became an English faculty member at Triton College. She was promoted to assistant dean of arts and sciences at Triton College in 1978. In 1985, she became president of Lakewood Community College (now Century College) in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Thornton moved to Cleveland, Ohio to serve as the first female president of Cuyahoga Community College in 1992. During her tenure, she led \$300 million worth of renovation and construction projects, also increasing the college's foundation from \$1.3 million to \$40 million. In June 2013, Thornton retired as president of Cuyahoga Community College and became president of Dream Catcher Education Consulting.

Thornton's board service included membership on the board of Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc., National City Bank, Bridgestreet Worldwide, Inc., Republic Powdered Metals, Inc., American Family Insurance, FirstEnergy Corporation, Office Max, Barnes and Noble Education, Inc., and Parkwood Corporation; in addition to serving as co-chair of the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges, on the board of visitors of the Marine Corps University, and on the Community College Advisory Board of Dynamic Campus, among others. Thornton's numerous awards and honors include four honorary doctorates from the College of St. Catherine, Youngstown State University, Baldwin Wallace University, and Cleveland State University. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and was awarded the American Council on Education Fellows' Mentor of the Year Award, the 2014 American Association of Community Colleges' Community College

Leadership Award, the Diverse Champions Award by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 2014 Community Service Award for Outstanding Achievement. In 2013, Thornton was named one of the “Top 25 Women in Higher Education” by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. In 2018, she received the City of Cleveland’s Heritage Award; and the Del deWendt Award from the First Tee of Cleveland.

Jerry Sue Thornton and her husband, Walter, live in Moreland Hills, Ohio. She has two step-daughters: Kathy and Karen and four grandchildren: Sam, Jack, Alex and Kathryn.

Jerry Sue Thornton was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 27, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jerry Sue Thornton was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 27, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. College president Jerry Sue Thornton (1949-) served as president of Lakewood Community College and Cuyahoga Community College.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Thornton, Jerry Sue

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Thornton, Jerry Sue--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

College President

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Sue Thornton, September 27, 2018. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Sue Thornton, Section A2018_197_001_001, TRT: 1:27:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Sue Thornton, Section A2018_197_001_002, TRT: 2:30:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Sue Thornton, Section A2018_197_001_003, TRT: 3:19:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Sue Thornton, Section A2018_197_001_004, TRT: 4:22:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Sue Thornton, Section A2018_197_001_005, TRT: 5:04:49 ?