

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Thomas A. Parham

PERSON

Parham, Thomas A. (Thomas Anthony), 1954-

Alternative Names: Thomas A. Parham;

Life Dates: October 2, 1954-

Place of Birth: St. Albans, Queens, New York, USA

Work: Carson, CA

Occupations: Academic Administrator; College President

Biographical Note

College president and academic administrator Thomas A. Parham was born on October 2, 1954 in Queens, New York to William and Sadie Parham. In 1970, he graduated from Daniel Murphy High School, in Los Angeles, California. He went on to earn his B.A. degree in social ecology in 1977 from University of California Irvine, and his M.A. degree in counseling psychology in 1978 from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1982, Parham received his Ph.D. degree in counseling psychology from Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, Illinois.

Parham served as assistant professor at University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, from 1982 to 1985. He joined the faculty at the University of California Irvine in 1985 and held several positions over thirty-three years including: assistant vice chancellor for counseling and health services, counseling center director, career and life planning center director, and vice chancellor for student affairs. In 1986, he was appointed to the City of Irvine's Human Relations Committee, and helped draft the city's first human rights ordinance, which was passed by the city council. He also served as chair of UCI's Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium for ten years. Parham was appointed the eleventh president of California State University Dominguez Hills in 2018.

Parham has served as a licensed psychologist for more than thirty-five years as a scholar and practitioner, with a research focus in the area of psychological negrescence, African psychology, and multicultural counseling. In addition to writing over forty-five journal articles and/or book chapters, he authored *Psychological Storms: The African American Struggle for Identity* in 1997 and *Counseling Persons of African Descent: Raising the Bar of Practitioner Competence* in 2002. He co-authored *Culturally Adaptive Counseling Skills: Demonstrations of Evidence-Based Practices* in 2011 and *The Psychology of Blacks: Centering Our Perspectives in the African Consciousness* in

2011.

Parham, an alumnus of the American Psychological Association's Minority Fellowship Program, has fellow status in divisions seventeen and forty-five of the APA and also with the American Counseling Association. He has held the title of distinguished psychologist in the Association of Black Psychologists. Parham served as president of the National Association of Black Psychologists and the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (an ACA division). He served on the editorial board for the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development for five years, completed a term on the editorial board of the Journal of Counseling and Development, and served as an ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Black Psychology. Parham has also served as a treating clinician for the NFL substance abuse program.

He was the recipient of the 2018 Illustrious Leadership Award from the American Psychological Association's Minority Fellowship Program.

Thomas A. Parham was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 14, 2018.

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