

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Argelia Rodriguez

PERSON

Rodríguez, Argelia, 1959-

Alternative Names: Argelia Rodriguez;

Life Dates: May 12, 1959-

Place of Birth: Havana, Cuba, USA

Residence: Bethesda, MD

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Nonprofit Executive

Biographical Note

Nonprofit executive Argelia Rodriguez was born on May 12, 1959 in Havana, Cuba to Argelia Velez-Rodriguez and Raul Rodriguez. In 1962, Rodriguez immigrated to the United States with her mother and brother, Raul Rodriguez, Jr. After graduating from the Ursuline Sisters Academy in Dallas, Texas in 1976, Rodriguez went on to receive her B.S. degree from Stanford University in 1980, and her M.B.A. degree from the Harvard Business School in 1984.

In 1980, Rodriguez worked for the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) as an engineer and later for Texas Instruments, Inc. She then was hired by Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc. in New York City, where she worked on strategic planning technology and mergers and acquisitions. After Rodriguez received her M.B.A. degree in 1984, she returned to Booz Allen Hamilton, before starting her own independent consulting firm in Washington, D.C. There, she worked for the District of Columbia Public Schools to increase STEM education among minority students. In 1997, Rodriguez served as the deputy director of product marketing and educational outreach for President Bill Clinton for the 1997 Presidential Inauguration. Then, in 1999, Rodriguez was appointed president of the D.C. College Access Program (DC-CAP), which partnered with D.C. schools to provide counseling and financial assistance to underserved students in the D.C. area. In 2007, Rodriguez launched the Alpha Leadership Program (ALP) for DC-CAP, an initiative that relies on community volunteers who serve as mentors to young men in five D.C. public and charter high schools. The following year, DC-CAP held their first annual DC-Capital Stars Gala Competition which showcased the artistic abilities of college-bound students from the D.C. area.

Rodriguez served on the board of trustees at Trinity Washington University and was elected to the Harvard University Board of Overseers in 2013. In 2010, she delivered the commencement address at Trinity Washington University and received an honorary degree. That same year, she received the Bert King Award for Service from Harvard Business School and was named a Murdoch Community Hero by News Corp in 2014.

Rodriguez resides in Bethesda, Maryland.

Argelia Rodriguez was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 21, 2019.

Related Entries

Ursuline Sisters Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Stanford University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Harvard Business School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.B.A.

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Texas Instruments, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1980]

Engineer

Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1982]

Strategic Planner, Mergers & Acquisitions

International Business Machines (IBM) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1980]

Engineer

D.C. College Access Program [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to ?]

President

Trinity Washington University [MEMBEROF]
[from 2009 to ?]

Trustee

Harvard Board of Overseers [MEMBEROF]
[from 2013 to ?]

Board

