

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gretchen Tucker Underwood

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Underwood, Gretchen Tucker, 1943-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 19, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:34:23).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator Gretchen Tucker Underwood (1943- ) worked at Brookline High School in Massachusetts for thirty-seven years as a teacher and dean of students before serving Dukes County, Massachusetts as county commissioner for three terms. Underwood was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 19, 2019, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_078
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator Gretchen Tucker Underwood was born on October 11, 1943 in Boston, Massachusetts to Judge Herbert Tucker and Mary Tucker. After graduating from Jamaica Plain High School in 1961, Tucker Underwood attended Howard University before transferring to Southern Connecticut State University, where she received her B.S. degree in education in 1968. In 1972, Tucker Underwood went on to receive her M.A. degree in educational administration and a certificate of advance graduate study from Boston State College.

After teaching social studies for three years at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, Connecticut, Tucker Underwood was hired as a teacher at Brookline High School in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1970. She later became the school's Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) coordinator. By 1996, Tucker Underwood was promoted to dean of students of Brookline High School. In the 1990s, she was also the first African American elected as a town meeting member while living in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Tucker Underwood served Brookline High School as the dean of students until her retirement in 2007, after thirty-seven years with the school. In 2008, Tucker Underwood moved to Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts; and, in 2014, she ran for Dukes County Commissioner as a democratic write-in candidate, and was elected to one of the seven seats. Tucker Underwood was re-elected to the seat in both 2016 and 2018. In 2019, she was appointed chair of the commission.

Tucker Underwood chairs the annual celebration commemorating an artist, educator, and writer from Martha's Vineyard, Della Hardman. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, an advisory council member for Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative, and has served on the boards of the Big Sister Association and Martha's Vineyard chapter of the NAACP. From 1996 to 2000, Tucker Underwood served as president of the Boston Coalition of 100 Black Women. In 2019, she was honored by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women at the sixteenth annual Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts program, held in the Massachusetts State House.

Tucker Underwood resides with her mother in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. She has one adult daughter, Gretchen Mercer, and two grandsons, Brandon and Jason Mercer.

Gretchen Tucker Underwood was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 19, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood was conducted by Harriette Cole on August 19, 2019, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Academic administrator Gretchen Tucker Underwood (1943- ) worked at Brookline High School in Massachusetts for thirty-seven years as a teacher and dean of students before serving Dukes County, Massachusetts as county commissioner for three terms.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### **Persons:**

Underwood, Gretchen Tucker, 1943-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Underwood, Gretchen Tucker, 1943---Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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# Occupations:

Academic Administrator

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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# 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 Gretchen Tucker Underwood, August 19, 2019. 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).

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# 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.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_001, TRT: 1:33:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_002,  
TRT: 2:29:29 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_003,  
TRT: 3:31:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_004,  
TRT: 4:28:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_005,  
TRT: 5:31:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_006,  
TRT: 6:31:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_007,  
TRT: 7:15:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Section A2019\_078\_001\_008,  
TRT: 8:12:22 ?