

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with David L. Evans

PERSON

Evans, David L.

Alternative Names: David L. Evans;

Life Dates: December 27, 1939-

Place of Birth: Wabash, Arkansas, USA

Residence: Cambridge, Massachusetts

Occupations: Academic Administrator

Biographical Note

Academic administrator and electrical engineer David L. Evans was born on December 27, 1939 in Wabash, Arkansas to Letha Canada and William Evans. Evans received his B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State College in 1962, and his M.S.E. degree in electrical engineering from Princeton University in 1966.

In 1962, Evans joined the Boeing Company as an electrical engineer in Seattle, Washington. For six months, Evans served as an electrical engineer for Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Huntsville, Alabama in 1964, and as a researcher in electrical engineering at RCA Sarnoff Laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey during the summer of 1965. From December 1967 to June 1968, he was part of a team of engineers sent from the Federal Systems Division of IBM to work on the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) at The Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation in Bethpage, New York. Grumman was the prime contractor for building the LEM, and IBM built the Launch Vehicle Digital Computer and the Launch Vehicle Data Adapter, all a part of the Apollo 11 vehicle that landed on the moon in July 1969. Also during his time at IBM, Evans started a college recruiting and placement service for young African American students which gained the attention of college administrators. In 1970, Harvard invited him to join the Harvard College Admissions Office, where he served as the assistant director of admissions and freshman proctor. Two years later, became associate director of admissions and senior advisor of freshmen. Evans was promoted to senior admissions officer at Harvard in 1975. In 1981, Evans joined the board of advisors of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

From 1979 to 1981, Evans was on the five person Human Relations Committee of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors. He joined the advisory

committee for the Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowships in International Affairs in 1981, and the advisory committee for the Frances Emily Hunt Trust Fund in 1983. Evans has also been a trustee of St. George's School and Roxbury Latin School, on the community advisory board of WGBH in Boston, Massachusetts, and on the board of directors of Harvard Student Agencies.

In 1970, Evans was nominated as the Outstanding Young Electrical Engineer in the United States. He was chosen as the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year of Tennessee State University in 1972, and received the Distinguished Alumni Award given by the Association of Black Princeton Alumni in 1987. In 1990, he was named the 311th of President George H.W. Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" for his community service work in Boston. Evans also received Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences' top prize for Administrative Service in 2002. A year later, the Harvard Black alumni endowed the David L. Evans Scholarship Fund, which has raised over one million dollars. Evans was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2005.

David L. Evans was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 28, 2019.

Related Entries

Eliza Miller Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Eliza Miller High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Tennessee State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.E.E.

Princeton University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.E.

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Princeton University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 196409 to 196506]

Teaching Assistant, Electrical Engineering

The Boeing Company [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Electrical Engineer

Lockheed Missiles and Space Company [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1996 to ?]

Electrical Engineer

IBM Federal Systems Division [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1991 to ?]

Systems Engineer

Harvard College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to ?]

Assistant Director of Admissions

Harvard College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1995 to ?]

Associate Director of Admissions

Harvard College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1975 to ?]

Senior Admissions Officer

RCA Sarnoff Laboratories [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 196506 to 196509]

Researcher, Electrical Engineering

Princeton University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 196509 to 196606]

Research Assistant

Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1972 to 1976]

Assistant Dean of Freshman

Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1970 to 1977]

Freshman Proctor

Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1972 to 1979]

Residential House Tutor

National Association for College Admission Counselors [MEMBEROf]
[from 197009 to ?]

Member

National Merit Scholarship Corporation [MEMBEROf]
[from 19761 to 19781]

Selection Committee

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association for College Admission Counselors [MEMBEROF]
[from 197910 to 198110]

Member, Human Relations Committee

Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowships in International Affairs, University of Virginia [MEMBEROF]
[from 1981 to ?]

Advisory Board

St. George's School [MEMBEROF]
[from 1971 to 198650]

Trustee

St. George's School [MEMBEROF]
[from 1975 to 1976]

Chair, Educational Committee

Frances Emily Hunt Trust Fund, Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Company [MEMBEROF]
[from 198307 to ?]

Advisory Board

College Scholarship Service [MEMBEROF]
[from 198402 to 198602]

Selection Committee

WGBH [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

USA Today [MEMBEROF]
[from 199404 to ?]

Selection Committee, All Academic Team

Harvard Student Agencies [MEMBEROF]
[from 199409 to ?]

Board of Directors

Harvard Foundation for Race Relations [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

