

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alice Palmer

PERSON

Palmer, Alice, 1939-

Alternative Names: Alice Palmer;

Life Dates: June 20, 1939-

Place of Birth: Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: State Senator

Biographical Note

Alice J. Palmer was born on June 20, 1939, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The daughter of Erskine and Mary Ward Roberts, Palmer graduated from high school at age sixteen and enrolled at Indiana University. After an extended leave of absence, Palmer returned to Indiana University to earn her Bachelors degree with the help of four jobs and a scholarship.

After graduating in 1965, Palmer found a teaching position in Indianapolis, Indiana, but soon moved to Chicago to work at Crane Junior College, later called Malcolm X College. She received her Masters degree from Roosevelt University and her Ph.D. from Northwestern University, where she co-authored two books and tutored in the Black House. Palmer remained at Northwestern University to serve as Associate Dean and Director of African American Student Affairs for the next five years. Palmer served as the National Voter Education Director for a national citizen action organization before becoming the founding director of the Metro YMCA Youth and Government Program in 1986. She also served as Executive Director of Chicago Cities in Schools.

On June 6, 1991, Palmer replaced Richard Newhouse in the Illinois Senate, where she served until 1996. While in office, Palmer served on the Appropriations II Committee, among many others. Palmer was replaced by Barack Obama in the state senate. In 1996, Palmer was hired by the University of Illinois at Chicago as an Associate Professor in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

Palmer was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 9, 2000.

Related Entries

George Washington Carver Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Shortridge High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Indiana University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Roosevelt University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Northwestern University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Malcolm X College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 199109 to 200409]

Teacher

Northwestern University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to 1994]

Associate Dean

Northwestern University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1999 to 2001]

Director of African American Student Affairs

Chicago Communities In Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Executive Director

Illinois General Assembly [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 1996]

State Senator

University of Illinois, Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1996 to ?]

Associate Professor