

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Benaree P. Wiley

PERSON

Wiley, Benaree

Alternative Names: Benaree P. Wiley;

Life Dates: May 13, 1946-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Residence: Chestnut Hill, MA

Occupations: Corporate Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Corporate chief executive Benaree “Bennie” Pratt Wiley was born on May 13, 1946, in Washington, D.C. Her mother, Mildred Petticord Pratt, died when she was two years old, and her father, Carlisle Pratt, was an attorney and judge before his death in 1993. Wiley grew up in Washington, D.C., and was raised by her paternal grandmother Hazel and her aunt, Aimee Pratt. She is also the sister of Sharon Pratt Kelly, who served as the mayor of Washington, D.C. from 1991-1995.

Wiley attended the public schools of Washington and graduated from Howard University in 1968 with a B.A. degree in marketing. In July 1970, she married Fletcher “Flash” Wiley and a month later they moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she entered Harvard University’s Business School, graduating with an M.B.A. in 1972. After receiving her M.B.A., she served as a consultant with such corporations as Abt Associates, Contract Research Corporation and Urban Systems Research and Engineering. As an independent consultant, Wiley worked with non-profit organizations to build their capacity and refine their program delivery. She then combined her interests in business and child development with the establishment of a high-end toy store, Giocatolli, on Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. During her time working as a consultant, her son, Pratt was born in 1976 and her daughter, B.J., in 1978.

In 1991, Wiley became the president and CEO of The Partnership, Inc., in Boston. The Partnership’s goal is to assist businesses in the Boston area to attract, retain and develop professionals of color, to increase the number of black professionals at all levels of leadership in the corporate sector of Boston and to help these professionals navigate the complex corporate structure of Boston. Under Wiley’s leadership, The Partnership became a major force in Boston’s corporate world, helping over 1,300 African Americans integrate themselves into the corporate community and stimulated more than

200 corporate partners to open doors for black professionals.

Wiley is highly active in the Boston community. She is a past chair of the directors of the Children's Museum in Boston, a trustee of Boston College, and overseer of WGBH Educational Foundation, a director of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Boston Foundation. As a former director of the Crispus Attucks Children's Center, she and her husband were honored for their two decades of service with the dedication of a playground in their name at the Center. In 2003, Wiley was selected as one of Boston's most powerful women by Boston Magazine.

Wiley retired from The Partnership, Inc., in 2005. She and her husband reside in Boston.

Related Entries

Gage Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Lucretia Mott Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

McFarland Junior High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

diploma

Howard University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

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

MBA

[STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

IBM [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1968 to 1970]

Marketing Research Specialist

Abt Associates [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1973 to 1974]

Consultant

Contract Research Corporation [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1974 to 1976]

Consultant

Partnership, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1991 to 2005]

President & CEO