

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Walter Broadnax

PERSON

Broadnax, Walter D.

Alternative Names: Walter Broadnax;

Life Dates: October 21, 1944-

Place of Birth: Starr City, Arkansas, USA

Residence: Fayetteville, NY

Occupations: University President

Biographical Note

Distinguished Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University and former President of Clark Atlanta University, Walter Doyce Broadnax has led a distinguished life of public service. Born October 21, 1944 in Starr City, Arkansas to railroad man, Walter Broadnax and Mary Lee Broadnax, Broadnax attended Roosevelt Elementary School in Hoisington, Kansas. He graduated from Hoisington High School in 1962 as an outstanding senior. He earned his B.A. degree from Washburn University in 1967. A Ford Foundation Fellow, Broadnax earned his M.P.A. degree from the University of Kansas in 1969 and his Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University in 1975.

From 1974 to 1975, Broadnax taught at Syracuse University and was a staff consultant to the New York State Department of Correctional Services. In 1976, he was appointed co-director, Joint International City Management Association/National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, Urban Management Education Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. Until 1979, Broadnax was professor of public administration at the Federal Executive Institute while teaching at the University of Virginia, Howard University and the University of Maryland. He also worked as director of Services to Children, Youth and Adults for the State of Kansas in Topeka. Broadnax joined the Carter administration in 1980 as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was senior staff member for the Advanced Study Program of the Brookings Institution. In 1981, he joined the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University where he chaired the Massachusetts Executive Development Program and was founding director of the innovations in state and local government programs. In 1987, Broadnax was appointed president of the New York Civil Service Commission. He worked as adjunct professor of Public Policy at the

University of Rochester from 1990 to 1993. In 1992, Broadnax served on the Harvard South Africa Program team and as a transition team leader for President Clinton. In 1993, he served as president of the Center for Governmental Research, and from 1993 to 1996, Broadnax worked as Deputy Secretary and COO of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. He also worked as a professor at the University of Maryland and Dean of Public Affairs at American University.

In 2002, Broadnax became president of Clark Atlanta University. Founded as Atlanta University in 1865 and Clark College in 1869, Clark Atlanta University is the largest of the United Negro College Fund institutions with an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students. Under Broadnax's leadership, Clark Atlanta University is the only private historically Black College or university classified as a Doctoral/Research-Intensive institution by the Carnegie Foundation. Broadnax has served on Colin Powell's U.S. Secretary of State management advisory board, Controller General of the United States David Walker's Advisory Board and NASA's Return to Flight Task Force.

Broadnax is married to Angel L. Wheelock and has a grown daughter, Andrea.

Related Entries

Hoisington High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Roosevelt Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Kansas [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

MPA

Syracuse University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Washburn University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

State of Kansas [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1967 to 1970]

Program Coordinator; analyst

Washburn University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to ?]

Director of Upward Bound Program

New York State Department of Correctional Services [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1974 to 1975]

Staff Consultant

Syracuse University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1974 to 1975]

Lecturer

Joint International City Management Association/National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, Urban Management Education Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1976 to ?]

United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1980 to 1981]

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1980 to ?]

Chair of Massachusetts Executive Development Program; founding director of the innovations in state and local government programs

New York Civil Service Commission [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1987 to ?]

President

University of Rochester [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to 1993]

Professor of Public Policy

Center for Governmental Research [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to 1993]

President

President-Elect Bill Clinton Administration [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1992 to ?]

Transition Team

Harvard South Africa Program [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1992 to 1992]

Policy Consultant

US Department of Health and Human Services [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1993 to 1996]

Deputy Secretary and COO

University of Maryland [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1996 to 1999]

Professor

American University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to 2002]

Dean of the School of Public Affairs/Professor

Clark Atlanta University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to 2008]

President

Syracuse University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2008 to ?]

Professor of Public Administration-Maxwell School of Public Affairs