

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Forrest Crawford

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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>	Crawford, Forrest, 1952-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Forrest Crawford,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 14, 2008
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:52:23).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civic leader Forrest Crawford (1952 - ) established the Utah Coalition for the Advancement of Minorities in Higher Education, and served for five years as chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission in Utah. He was also instrumental in establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an official holiday in Utah. Crawford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 14, 2008, in Salt Lake City, Utah. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2008_050
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader Forrest Cleon Crawford was born on August 19, 1952 to Hazel and Dorris Crawford in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Crawford attended and graduated from Weber State College with his B.A. degree in sociology in 1975. Afterwards, he earned his M.S.W. degree from the University of Utah in 1977.

Crawford was hired as a clinical counselor in psychological services at Weber State University, and in 1983, he began working as a career and vocational education instructor. Crawford earned his education specialist degree from Brigham Young University in 1985 and then his Ph.D. in education in 1990. He went on to establish the Utah Coalition for the Advancement of Minorities in Higher Education in order to promote quality education for people of color and the disadvantaged.

In 1991, Crawford co-founded and served five years as Governor Michael Leavitt's appointed chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the official holiday celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Utah. Then, in 1992, he served as the first assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity. Crawford was one of eight recipients for the highest national honor given by the Federal King Commission and the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. He has presented at Skakuza, South Africa; Bordeaux, France and Canterbury, England and was also invited to address the Danish University College and Education. Crawford is on the board of directors of the Disability Law Center, the Human Rights Education Center of Utah and the Utah Humanities Council.

Crawford lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Crawford was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 14, 2008.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Forrest Crawford was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 14, 2008, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civic leader Forrest Crawford (1952 - ) established the Utah Coalition for the Advancement of Minorities in Higher Education, and served for five years as chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission in Utah. He was also instrumental in establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an official holiday in Utah.

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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:

Crawford, Forrest, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Crawford, Forrest, 1952- --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:

Civic Leader

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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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 Forrest Crawford, March 14, 2008. 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 Forrest Crawford, Section A2008\_050\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:36 ?

Forrest Crawford was born on August 19, 1952 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Hazel Hampton Crawford and Dorris Crawford, Sr. His maternal ancestors were pig farmers who migrated from Tennessee to the Oklahoma territory, where several of them became cowboys. Crawford's mother was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma to Ralph Hampton and Laura Hampton, who later settled in Luther, Oklahoma. His paternal grandparents, Grant Crawford and Minnie Crawford, were laborers

who worked on the cotton farms of Carthage, Texas, where his father was born. As a teenager, Crawford's father moved with his older sister to Tulsa, Oklahoma; and he later settled in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. His mother attended Oklahoma's Langston University, and left to marry Crawford's father before finishing her degree. Years later, she returned to complete her education. In Sand Springs, Crawford's mother was civically active, and collaborated with the leaders of the Cherokee Nation to advocate for anti-poverty reforms.

Video Oral History Interview with Forrest Crawford, Section A2008\_050\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:04 ?

Forrest Crawford's father, Dorris Crawford, Sr., left his family's farm in Carthage, Texas to move to Sand Springs, Oklahoma. He enrolled at Oklahoma's Langston University, where he met Crawford's mother, Hazel Hampton Crawford. After marrying, they raised seven children, including Crawford, in a shotgun house in a poor, predominantly black section of Sand Springs. Crawford's father worked in the stockyards and packinghouses, and also played several musical instruments in the local jazz bands. With his family, Crawford attended the First Baptist Church, and was an active congregant. He began his education at the segregated Booker T. Washington School, where he and his peers used secondhand books from the white schools, and were inspired by the black faculty, including his paternal aunt, Bessie Crawford Zackery. During Crawford's junior year at Charles Page High School in 1968, his father was robbed and murdered outside of a nightclub in Sand Springs.

Video Oral History Interview with Forrest Crawford, Section A2008\_050\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:52 ?

Forrest Crawford began the first grade in 1958 at the all-black Booker T. Washington School in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. There, he was mentored by his paternal aunt, Bessie Crawford Zackery, who was his third grade teacher; and was inspired by the musical and athletic talents of his older brothers, Kermit Crawford and Kenneth Crawford. In 1966, the Sand Springs Public Schools were integrated; and Crawford and his twin brother, Dorris Crawford, Jr., transferred to the predominantly white Charles Page High School. There, the black students were accosted with racial slurs and harassment, and half of them left school before graduating. Crawford was popular because of his athletic ability, and received encouragement from Coach O'Neal Adams. In 1970, Crawford matriculated at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, where he joined the football team. Two years later, Coach Richard Guinn recommended Crawford to try out for the football team at Weber State College in Ogden, Utah.

Video Oral History Interview with Forrest Crawford, Section A2008\_050\_001\_004, TRT: 0:28:41 ?

Forrest Crawford transferred in 1972 to Weber State College in Ogden, Utah. He graduated in 1975 with a degree in sociology, and then entered the University Of Utah's Graduate School of Social Work in Salt Lake City. In 1976, he served as a research assistant for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Bethel, Alaska, where he collected data on education in the Eskimo community. Upon earning a master's degree in clinical social work in 1977, Crawford became a counselor to the Black Scholars United student organization at Weber State College. In that role, he helped the black students advocate for inclusivity in the curriculum. He also taught sociology courses during this time. In 1990, Crawford obtained a doctoral degree in education from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He went on to receive tenure in the Department of Teacher Education at Weber State University; where, in 1999, he also served as the assistant to the president for institutional diversity.

Video Oral History Interview with Forrest Crawford, Section A2008\_050\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:36 ?

Forrest Crawford was promoted in 1999 to the role of assistant to the president for institutional diversity at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. In this

capacity, he oversaw the diversity policies and outreach programs for the entire institution. He also active in the International Society for Teacher Education, through which he traveled to countries like England, Denmark and South Africa to learn about cross cultural methods of teacher training. Crawford describes the diverse student body of Weber State University, and talks about the discrimination against Arab American students following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Crawford also describes Utah's cultural and ethnic diversity, as well as the state's activist groups, including the League of Women Voters of Utah. He reflects upon his educational philosophy, and concludes this part of the interview by describing his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with Forrest Crawford, Section A2008\_050\_001\_006, TRT: 0:24:34 ?

Forrest Crawford reflects upon his family, life and legacy; and describes how he would like to be remembered. He concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.