

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Leona Barr-Davenport

PERSON

Davenport, Leona Barr, 1957-

Alternative Names: Leona Barr-Davenport;

Life Dates: November 30, 1957-

Place of Birth: Hemingway, South Carolina, USA

Residence: Sharpsburg, GA

Work: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Corporate Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Corporate chief executive Leona Barr Davenport was born November 30, 1957 in Hemingway, South Carolina. Her parents, Mary Leona Barr and Luther Rufus Barr, were sharecroppers. They had ten children. After graduating from high school in Johnsonville, South Carolina, Davenport went on to earn her B.S. degree in business administration and economics from Benedict College in 1979, winning the honor of being one of Ebony magazine's "Campus Queens of 1978-1979." In 1999, Davenport received the first Dean's Community Improvement Scholarship from Clark Atlanta University. She earned her M.B.A. degree with a concentration in marketing from Clark Atlanta in 2001.

After college, Davenport dove straight into the world of business, accepting a position as an accounting supervisor at Gencom, Inc. In 1984, she left Gencom and became a senior auditor at Broniec Associates, where she stayed until 1988. Davenport then became an assistant at the Atlanta Business League, an organization originally affiliated with Booker T. Washington that serves as an advocate for businesses owned by African Americans in the Atlanta area. Davenport worked her way to the top of the ABL, becoming president in 1998. She has held the position ever since. In 2009, Davenport accepted a Legacy Award from Spelman College on behalf of the Atlanta Business League.

Davenport has been active in community service throughout her career, starting with her decade-long affiliation with the Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization, or SWAYBO, which is sponsored by the Atlanta Business League. Davenport is also a member of Crossroads Community Ministries, which helps the homeless of Atlanta,

and the Economic Development Corporation of Fulton County. In 2000, Davenport was honored for her community service by the Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta during their Salute to Black Mothers Banquet.

Davenport lives in Sharpsburg, Georgia with her husband Jewel L. Davenport.

Leona Barr Davenport was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 12, 2010.

Related Entries

Johnsonville High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Benedict College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Clark Atlanta University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

MBA

Stuckey School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

GenCom, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197909 to 198403]

Accounting Supervisor

Broniec Associates, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 198404 to 198808]

Senior Auditor

Atlanta Business League [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 198808 to ?]

President, Chief Executive Officer

Crossroads Community Ministries [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

SWAYBO [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Economic Development Corporation of Fulton County [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]