

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Geraldine D. Brownlee

PERSON

**Brownlee, Geraldine D., 1925-**

**Alternative Names:** Geraldine D. Brownlee;

**Life Dates:** April 13, 1925-

**Place of Birth:** East Chicago, Indiana, USA

**Residence:** Munster, IN

**Occupations:** Education Professor

## Biographical Note

Geraldine Brownlee has spent most of her life as an educator. Born in East Chicago, Indiana, Brownlee's father was a skilled worker for Inland Steel and both her mother and her stepmother were homemakers. Brownlee attended West Virginia State College, where she graduated cum laude in 1947 with degrees in biology and Spanish. Brownlee earned an M.S.T. in urban education from the University of Chicago in 1967, and completed her Ph.D. there in 1975. She also spent time at both the University of Illinois and the University of Michigan graduate schools of social work.

In 1947, Brownlee took a job with the Cook County Department of Public Welfare, where she worked as a caseworker from 1948 until 1955 when she began a career in teaching. She taught elementary school for eleven years in the Chicago public schools. From 1967 until 1970, Brownlee worked with the University of Chicago graduate school of education as a staff associate, becoming assistant director of teacher training in 1970. The following year, Brownlee was made an assistant professor and assistant dean of student services in the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) College of Education. During 1975-1976, Brownlee served as director of Title VII desegregation projects for Illinois School District 163. She continued as an assistant professor with UIC until her retirement in 1990, teaching curriculum and instruction within the school of education to both undergraduate and graduate students. During that time, she worked as a visiting professor to Indiana University Northwest and was active evaluating programs within the Chicago public school system. In 1995, Brownlee became a consultant to the Center for Urban Education at DePaul University in Chicago, where she remained for a year.

Brownlee has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout her career. She has also been active both in professional and civic organizations. Some of her honors

include the 1990 YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago Outstanding Achievement Award in the field of education; selection as a member of the Chicago Presbyterian Delegation to Cuba in 1998; and election as a commissioner to the 2000 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of America. She has served on the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago Board of Directors, the Chicago Urban League Education Advisory Committee and Links, Inc. Brownlee and her husband Brady live in Chicago.

## Related Entries

**Benjamin Franklin Elem School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**West Virginia State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Bachelor's**

**University of Michigan** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Chicago** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**East Chicago Central High Sch** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Indiana University Northwest** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Visiting Professor**

**Cook County Department of Public Welfare** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1991 to 1993]

**Caseworker**

**Chicago Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1974 to 1993]

**Teacher**

**University of Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1970]

**Staff Associate**

**University of Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1997 to 1998]

**Assistant Director of Teacher Training**

**University of Illinois, Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 1990]

**Assistant Dean of Student Services**

**Illinois School District 163** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1975 to 1976]

**Director of Title VII Desegregation Projects**

**University of Illinois, Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Assistant Professor**

**Center for Urban Education at DePaul University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1995 to 1996]

**Consultant**

**Chicago Urban League** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Education Committee Chair**

**Metropolitan Chicago YWCA** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**The Links** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]