

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Andre J. Hornsby

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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>	Hornsby, Andre J., 1953-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Andre J. Hornsby,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 7, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:30:28).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Education chief executive Andre J. Hornsby (1953 - ) served as superintendent of the South Central District of the Houston Independent School District; superintendent of the Yonkers, New York, Public School system; president for the National Alliance of Black School Educators; and supervising superintendent of Executive Leadership Development for the New York Public Schools. Hornsby was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 7, 2004, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_250
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Andre Jose Hornsby was born on October 7, 1953, in New Orleans, Louisiana; his mother was a seamstress and his father was a carpenter and bricklayer. An early learner, Hornsby began attending school when he was just two and a half years old and was able to read at three. Hornsby's parents divorced during his early childhood and his mother moved the family to Gary, Indiana. In 1971, Hornsby earned his high school diploma from Bishop Noll Institute Catholic High School in Hammond, Indiana, where he was a star athlete excelling in football and track.

After high school, Hornsby attended Arizona Western Community College on a football scholarship, where he earned his A.A. degree in pre-medicine and education in 1973. Hornsby then went on to attend the University of Tulsa, earning his B.S. degree in education in 1975. Hornsby received his master's degree in health and physical education from the University of Houston in 1976 and began his teaching career that same year. In 1982, Hornsby earned his doctorate of education from Texas Southern University.

From 1995 until 1998, Hornsby served as superintendent of the South Central District of the Houston Independent School District. In this position he founded a 21st Century Laboratory School with Texas Southern University and restructured more than 200 schools in the district. In 1998, Hornsby served as superintendent of the Yonkers, New York Public School system; during his tenure, standardized test scores improved and he increased the number of reading, math, and technology programs in the school system. From 2001 until 2003, Hornsby worked as president for the National Alliance of Black School Educators, a nonprofit organization devoted to furthering academic success for the nation's children, particularly children of African descent. In 2003, Hornsby served as supervising superintendent of Executive Leadership Development, working with district superintendents, local school boards, and communities to implement an executive leadership development program in New York Public Schools. Later that year he was hired as the chief executive officer for Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland.

Hornsby has received numerous awards for his educational and civic accomplishments.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Andre J. Hornsby was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on December 7, 2004, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Education chief executive Andre J. Hornsby (1953 - ) served as superintendent of the South Central District of the Houston Independent School District; superintendent of the Yonkers, New York, Public School system; president for the National Alliance of Black School Educators; and supervising superintendent of Executive Leadership Development for the New York Public Schools.

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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:

Hornsby, Andre J., 1953-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hornsby, Andre J., 1953---Interviews

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African American educators--Interviews

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African American school administrators--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:

Education Chief Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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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 Andre J. Hornsby, December 7, 2004. 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 Andre J. Hornsby, Section A2004\_250\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:38  
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Andre J. Hornsby was born on October 7, 1953 in New Orleans, Louisiana. His mother, Leatrice Delpit Hornsby, was also born in New Orleans. She was a seamstress along with some of her sisters. His father, Rogers Hornsby, was born in Plaquemine, Louisiana. His family were builders who sold land granted to former slaves who left it as they fled the South following emancipation; his mother owned a barbeque restaurant. Hornsby's father was a carpenter who grew up in Plaquemine with his three brothers and later worked in California. He moved to New Orleans in his twenties, where he met Hornsby's mother at a black social club. Hornsby was raised in the Creole community of the 7th Ward of New Orleans. The extended family in his household included his maternal grandmother, who kept house and worked cleaning a bank at nights, and great-grandmother, whom he read to from a young age. He began attending Martinez Kindergarten School in New Orleans at age two. His family moved away from the city when he was five years old.

African American educators--Interviews.

African American school administrators--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Andre J. Hornsby, Section A2004\_250\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:56  
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Andre J. Hornsby moved to Gary, Indiana with his mother and his older brother after his parents' separation. Though he had excelled at Martinez Kindergarten School in New Orleans, Louisiana, teachers at his public elementary school in Gary thought he needed to be retained. Instead, his mother put him in Holy Rosary School, a Catholic grade school. As a child, Hornsby thought he would follow his father into the construction business. He frequently traveled between Gary, New Orleans, and Los Angeles, California where his father lived. One of these visits to L.A. was during the Watts Riots. These trips gave him an awareness of racism from a young age. He played sports, including wrestling and football, throughout his school years, and was on the Hatcher Youth Foundation track team. He campaigned for HistoryMaker Richard Hatcher's mayoral election. Hornsby attended Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond, Indiana for high school, and his athletic ability helped him stay out of trouble despite his militant activism.

Video Oral History Interview with Andre J. Hornsby, Section A2004\_250\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:53  
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Andre J. Hornsby was on the track and football teams at Bishop Noll Institute. His athletic ability enabled him to pass through rival gang territories in Gary, Indiana. Hornsby's initial college plans were changed after a torn hamstring; he eventually entered Arizona Western College in Yuma on a football scholarship. At this junior college, Hornsby focused on sports and academics, switching his major from computer programming to education. After earning his associate's degree in 1973, he transferred to the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma. Hornsby found the campus dull, but he and other African American students founded the Association of Black Collegians and worked to bring Stokely Carmichael to speak, despite the university's resistance. He graduated with a B.S. in education in 1975 then obtained his master's degree at the University of Houston in Texas. After graduating, he taught gymnastics and physical education at two local elementary schools, then decided to pursue a Ph.D. at Texas Southern University.

Video Oral History Interview with Andre J. Hornsby, Section A2004\_250\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:22

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Andre J. Hornsby started a gymnastics school with a partner in Houston, Texas while working on his doctorate at Texas Southern University. After graduating in 1982, he began to work for the Houston Independent School District, becoming regional superintendent for a south central district in Houston. In 1998, he was hired as superintendent of the Yonkers Public School District in Yonkers, New York. He agreed to work for the district on the condition that he could change the implementation for Educational Improvement Plan II, which had come about after a court battle over segregation in Yonkers schools. His proposed changes clashed with the plan advocated by the NAACP, but Hornsby was able to implement his ideas until a political battle led to a loss of funding. After leaving Yonkers, he worked for the National Alliance for Black School Educators and the New York City public school system. While there, Hornsby was offered the position of CEO for Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland.

Video Oral History Interview with Andre J. Hornsby, Section A2004\_250\_001\_005, TRT: 0:26:39  
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Andre J. Hornsby began working as chief executive officer for Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland in 2003. When first hired, the school district was facing a large deficit, which Hornsby worked to fix by implementing a new budget. Hornsby also pushed for the schools to raise academic performances with the introduction of more advanced course offerings. During his tenure, the district also saw its athletic programs improve. Hornsby talks about his responsibilities as CEO and his thoughts on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. At the time of the interview, Hornsby was under investigation for corruption by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and he offers his response to those allegations. Hornsby thanks important people in his life, describes how he would like to be remembered and reflects upon his life. He ends the tape by narrating his photographs.