

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Steven A. Minter

PERSON

Minter, Steven A., 1938-

**Alternative Names:** Steven A. Minter;

**Life Dates:** October 23, 1938-September 19, 2019

**Place of Birth:** Akron, Ohio, USA

**Residence:** Cleveland, OH

**Work:** Cleveland, OH

**Occupations:** Foundation Executive

## Biographical Note

University executive-in-residence and former foundation executive Steven A. Minter was born in Akron, Ohio on October 23, 1938. He is the son of Lawrence and Dorothy Minter. Graduating from Ohio's Kinsman High School in 1956, Minter earned his B.A. degree in education from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio in 1960. In 1963, he earned his M.Ed. degree from Case Western Reserve University. He also holds honorary doctorate degrees from Case Western Reserve University, Baldwin-Wallace College, Kent State University, Oberlin College, Lake Erie College and Findlay College.

Minter served as president and executive director of the Cleveland Foundation from 1984 until his retirement in July 2003. Outside the foundation world, Minter spent over 15 years in governmental positions. In 1980, when the U.S. Department of Education was first formed, he served as its first under secretary. From 1970 to 1975, he was the commissioner of public welfare for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He had a career as a caseworker at the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department in 1960 in Cleveland, Ohio and became its director in 1969.

Minter served on the boards of numerous national and regional organizations, including the College of Wooster, Community Foundations of America, American Public Welfare Association and the National Community AIDS Partnership. He co-chaired Greater Cleveland's Vision Council and served on the boards of the Greater Cleveland Roundtable, Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, the Union Club and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. He is a director of KeyCorp and the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. He is also a former board member of Dominion Resources,

Rubbermaid and Ohio Bell Telephone Company.

Minter is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 2003 Distinguished Grantmaker Award presented by the Council on Foundations and the 1991 Ohio Governor's Award for Excellence in Education.

Minter and his wife, Dolly, live in Shaker Heights, Ohio. They have three married daughters, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Minter passed away on September 19, 2019.

## Related Entries

**Kinsman High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Baldwin Wallace University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Case Western Reserve University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Cuyahoga County Welfare Department** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Case Worker**

**Cuyahoga County Welfare Department** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Special Services Case Worker**

**Cuyahoga County Welfare Department** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Supervisor**

**Cuyahoga County Welfare Department** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chief Administrative Director**

**The Cleveland Foundation** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Program Officer**

**The Cleveland Foundation** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Associate Director**

**U.S. Department of Education** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Under Secretary of Education**

**Cleveland State University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Fellow**

**Cuyahoga County Welfare Department** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1969 to 1970]

**Director**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1970 to 1975]

**Commissioner of Public Welfare**

**The Cleveland Foundation** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 2003]

**President and Executive Director**