

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James Dumpson

PERSON

Dumpson, James R., 1909-2012

Alternative Names: James Dumpson;

Life Dates: April 5, 1909-November 5, 2012

Place of Birth: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Residence: Montclair, NJ

Work: New York, NY

Occupations: Social Worker; ;

Biographical Note

International social worker and educator James Russelle Dumpson was born on April 5, 1909 to James and Edythe Dumpson in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dumpson's family moved to West Philadelphia where he attended West Philadelphia Boys' High School. He then attended Chaney Normal School (now Chaney Teachers College) and received a teaching certificate in 1932. He went on to Temple University to receive his B.A. degree in education in 1934. Dumpson taught elementary school for two years before moving to New York City to work for the Children's Aid Society as a case worker. He then received his M.A. degree in social work from Fordham University and his Ph.D. from the University of Dacca in Ghana.

From 1953 to 1954, Dumpson served as a United Nations Advisor/Chief of Training in Social Welfare to the Government of Pakistan. In 1971, he worked as a consultant in Pakistan, and in 1977, received a fellowship to Pakistan through the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to Pakistan.

Dumpson began his association with Fordham University in 1957 as a Visiting Associate Professor in the Graduate Institute for Mission Studies. Ten years later, he returned to Fordham University as the Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work, with the faculty rank of professor.

In 1959, Dumpson was named Commissioner of Welfare for the City of New York, becoming the only African American welfare commissioner in the country. His appointment also marked the first time that a social worker had held the position. He

then returned to New York seven years later to become administrator of the Human Resources Department.

As an advisor to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Dumpson served on various advisory commissions, including the Presidents Commission on Narcotics and Drug Abuse. In 1990, Dumpson was appointed to serve as New York City's Health Service Administrator and Chairman of the Health and Hospitals Corporation. Upon retirement, he continued to teach at Fordham University until 2006.

Dumpson passed away on November 5, 2012.

Related Entries

West Philadelphia Boys' High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

West Philadelphia High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Octavius V. Catto Secondary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Temple University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fordham University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Children's Aid Society [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1936 to 1943]

Caseworker

Government of Pakistan [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1953 to 1954]

United Nations Advisor

City of New York [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1954 to 1965]

Various, eventually Commissioner of Welfare

Fordham University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1967 to ?]

Dean, School of Social Work

Health and Hospitals Corporation, NYC [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 1994]

Chairman

President's Commission on Narcotics and Drug Abuse [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Council on Social Work Education [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

President