

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Darryl W. Dennard

PERSON

Dennard, Darryl W., 1957-

Alternative Names: Darryl W. Dennard;

Life Dates: September 18, 1957-

Place of Birth: Harlem, New York, USA

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Work: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Broadcast Journalist

Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist Darryl W. Dennard was born on September 18, 1957 in Harlem, New York to Eleanor Adamson and Glenn W. Dennard. He graduated from De Witt Clinton High School. Dennard was a member of Fordham University's Upward Bound program and participated in its Bridge program by taking classes at Fordham University. He then went on to attend the State University of New York College at Buffalo and graduated with his B.A. degree in broadcasting in 1981. While at Buffalo State, he was a member of the Black Liberation Front student organization, where he was an executive board member, founding the college's Minority Resource Center.

In 1980, Dennard was hired as a production assistant at the NBC affiliate WGRZ-TV in Buffalo, New York. He was promoted to a news reporter in 1983, and worked at WGRZ-TV until 1987. Dennard then became co-host of the "Ebony-Jet Showcase" from 1987 to 1991, and was hired as associate editor of Ebony Man magazine. He then served as co-host of the "Black Enterprise Report" and as host and producer of the "Minority Business Report." Dennard also worked as an anchor of "Good Day Chicago" in the 1990s, and has hosted many other programs, including "Know Your Heritage." He has worked on WVAZ-FM's "Steve Harvey Show," WCGI-FM's "Morning Riot," WGCI-AM's "John Hannah Morning Show," and WVAZ's "Tom Joyner Morning Show." In addition, he has interviewed many celebrities and notable figures, including President Barack Obama, Michael Jackson and Oprah Winfrey. Dennard served as Vice President of First Trace Communications, a strategic, cause related public relations firm, and Founder and CEO of Double D Productions, Inc., a full service audio/video production company, which produced the 1999 documentary "Heading West: A History of African Americans on Chicago's West Side," and the

more recent documentary, “Culture of Calm: A Calming Presence,” which chronicles the Chicago Public School’s mentoring efforts directed towards “At Risk” youth in the wake of the Derion Albert beating death. Dennard’s professional affiliations include the National Association of Market Developers, the Black Public Relations Society, the 100 Black Men of Chicago, the Young Brothers for Christ Youth Ministry at Apostolic Church of God, and the Radio and Television Broadcasting and Theatre Departments at Kennedy King College.

Most important to him are his wife Darlene, and their two children, Autumn, a graduate of Howard University and Darryl Jr, a fine arts graduate at The Cooper Union in New York City. Dennard also has a son-in-law, Brian, and two grandchildren, Ari and Milo.

Darryl Dennard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 23, 2014.

Related Entries

DeWitt Clinton High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

High School Diploma

State University of New York at Buffalo [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Ps 59 The Community School Of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Black Enterprise Magazine [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Co-host

Minority Business Report [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Host and Producer

Know Your Heritage [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Host

WVAZ-FM [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

WCGI Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

WCGI Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

WVAZ-FM [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

First Trace Communications [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President

Double D Productions, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Founder and CEO

WGRZ TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1980 to 1983]

Production Assistant

WGRZ TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1983 to 1987]

News Reporter

Ebony-Jet Showcase [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1987 to 1991]

Co-host

Ebony Man Magazine [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1987 to 1991]

Associate Editor

Good Day Chicago [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to ?]

Anchor

National Association of Market Developers [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Black Public Relations Society [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

100 Black Men [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Young Brothers for Christ Youth Ministry at Apostolic Church of God [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Radio and Television Broadcasting and Theatre Departments at Kennedy King College [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

National Black Public relations Society [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]