

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Cassandra Jennings

PERSON

Jennings, Cassandra, 1956-

Alternative Names: Cassandra Jennings;

Life Dates: May 24, 1956-

Place of Birth: Williamstown, North Carolina, USA

Residence: Sacramento, CA

Work: Sacramento, CA

Occupations: City Government Administrator

Biographical Note

Municipal official and nonprofit executive Cassandra Jennings was born on May 24, 1956 in Williamstown, North Carolina to Mary Bunch Brinkley and Bernard Brinkley. Jennings graduated from Bowie High School in Bowie, Maryland in 1974, and received her B.A. degree in urban studies from the University of Maryland College Park in 1978. She then earned her M.P.A. degree from the University of San Francisco in 1983.

Jennings worked as an analyst for the City of Oakland, California from 1978 to 1983. Jennings was then hired as a project manager for the Neighborhood Housing Services of America in Oakland. In 1987, she joined the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, where worked in various positions, including that of deputy executive director. During her time there, Jennings founded the consulting firm of Jennings & Associates in 2000. After leaving the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency in 2005, Jennings was hired by the City of Sacramento as an assistant city manager, a position she held until 2011. She then briefly returned to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency as the deputy executive director, handling special projects and evaluating special entities. From 2012 to 2016, Jennings served as a senior advisor to Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson. In this role, Jennings worked on a number of city-wide initiatives, including For Arts' Sake, Sacramento Steps Forward, and Volunteer Sacramento. Jennings became the president and chief executive officer of the Greater Sacramento Urban League in 2016.

Jennings has received numerous awards, including a Repairer of the Breach Award in 2010 and an Award of Excellence from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in 2011. In 2016, she received the Community Leader Award from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and was a

California Legislative Caucus Black History Month Honoree. Jennings also received an Al Geiger Memorial Award from the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and a Chancellor's Achievement Award for diversity and community from the University of California, Davis in 2018. Jennings served as chair of the American Leadership Forum and the Florin Road Foundation boards as well as on the boards of the California Musical Theater and the Golden 1 Credit Union. She served as president of the Sacramento chapter of The Links, and was co-chair of the Career Education African American Advisory Panel.

Jennings and her husband, Richard T. Jennings II, have two children, Richard Jennings III and Asha Jennings.

Cassandra Jennings was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 3, 2018.

Related Entries

University of Maryland [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of San Francisco [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

City of Oakland [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1983]

Analyst

Neighborhood Housing Services of America [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1986]

Project Management

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to 2005]

Deputy Executive Director

City of Sacramento [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2005 to 2011]

Assistant City Manager

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2011 to 2012]

Deputy Executive Director

City of Sacramento [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2012 to 2016]

Senior Advisor

Greater Sacramento Urban League [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2016 to ?]

President and CEO

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church [MEMBEROf]
[from 1987 to ?]

Various

Sacramento Chapter of The Links, Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from 2000 to ?]

President

Golden 1 Credit Union Board [MEMBEROf]
[from 2005 to ?]

Chair

UC African American Diversity and Inclusion Committee [MEMBEROf]
[from 2016 to ?]

Member

Align Capital Region [MEMBEROf]
[from 2016 to ?]

Member

Career Education Black Advisory Panel [MEMBEROf]
[from 2017 to ?]

Co-Chair