

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Arva Rice

PERSON

Rice, Arva, 1968-

Alternative Names: Arva Rice;

Life Dates: February 23, 1968-

Place of Birth: Milwaukee , Wisconsin, USA

Residence: New York, NY

Work: New York, NY

Occupations: Pharmacist; Nonprofit Executive

Biographical Note

Nonprofit executive Arva Rice was born on February 23, 1968 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After graduating from Heritage Christian Schools in 1986, Rice received her B.S. degree in social policy from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in 1990, and took post-graduate courses in education at the Teachers College at Columbia University in New York, New York.

After graduation, Rice moved to New York City where she received a fellowship from the NYC Urban Fellows Program, and worked in the office of political leader Ruth Messinger. In 1993, Rice was hired as the technical assistance director at the Fund for the City of New York. She then served as program director of economic literacy for Girls, Incorporated, where she partnered with American Express that brought about the publication of Money Matters: An Economic Literacy Action Kit for Girls. In 1999, Rice became executive director of Public Allies New York; and, then executive director of Project Enterprise in 2003. During her tenure, the agency doubled its revolving loan fund. In 2009, Rice became president and chief executive officer of the New York Urban League (NYUL), becoming the second woman to hold this position. In this role, Rice forged a partnership with the Mary J. Blige Foundation For the Advancement of Women Now (FFAWN) that resulted in establishing the inaugural Girls Empowerment Day and a four-year scholarship for an outstanding college-bound young woman. Under her leadership, the NYUL also allied with Jordan Fundamentals, the nonprofit organization run by Michael Jordan, providing students the opportunity to be trained as Team Jordan athletes through a ten-week sportsmanship program.

In 2010, Rice was appointed commissioner of the New York City Equal Employment

Practices; and, in 2018, she was appointed commissioner of the Commission on Gender Equity. In 2018, Rice joined the board of trustees of First Corinthians Baptist Church. She was also a member of the New York Women's Forum and The Links.

In 2005, Rice was named a Network Journal Forty Under 40 honoree and was a grantee for the Robin Hood Foundation. In 2013, Rice was selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as one of sixteen leaders for its Children and Family Fellows. Two years later, she received the Alumni Merit Award for the School of Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University.

Rice was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 28, 2019.

Related Entries

Park University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Pepperdine University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Indiana University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Butler University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Engleburg Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Heritage Christian Schools [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Northwestern University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Teachers College, Columbia University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Lincoln Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Pharmacist

Freedman's Hospital [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Pharmacist

U.S. Army [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1946 to 1983]

Duke University Hospital [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1958 to 1960]

Pharmacist

William N. Ricketts, M.D. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1961 to 1974]

Office Manager

Saint Leo University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1978 to 1990]

Adjunct Professor

Savannah Tribune [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1984 to 1984]

Sales

Savannah Police Department [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1984 to 1996]

NYC Urban Fellow [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to 1991]

Fellow

The Valley [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1992 to 1994]

Development Associate

Fund for the City [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1994 to 1998]

Director

Girls Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1998 to 1998]

Project Director

Public Allies [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to 2005]

Executive Director

Project Enterprise [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2005 to 2009]

Executive Director

New York Urban League [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2009 to ?]

CEO

Links, Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President and President

Jack and Jill of America, Inc [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

CORE [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Medical Auxiliary [MEMBEROf]
[from 1967 to ?]

President

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated [MEMBEROf]
[from 1948 to ?]

Charter member

NYC Equal Employment Practices [MEMBEROf]
[from 2010 to ?]

Commissioner

The Links [MEMBEROf]
[from 2010 to ?]

Member

New York Women's Forum [MEMBEROf]
[from 2016 to ?]

Member

First Corinthians Baptist Church [MEMBEROf]
[from 2018 to ?]

Trustee

Commission on Gender Equity [MEMBEROf]
[from 2018 to ?]

Commissioner

