

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Linda Whitlock

PERSON

Whitlock, Linda, 1947-

Alternative Names: Linda Whitlock;

Life Dates: December 3, 1947-

Place of Birth: Richmond, Virginia, USA

Residence: Newton Center, MA

Occupations: Nonprofit Chief Executive;

Biographical Note

Nonprofit executive Linda Whitlock was born on December 3, 1947 in Richmond, Virginia to Sarah Johnson Whitlock and Kenneth Edward Whitlock. Whitlock received her B.A. degree in psychology from Mount Holyoke College in 1972 and her M.A. degree in psychology from the University of Michigan in 1981. In 1980, Whitlock was hired as an instructor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT and as director of the Massachusetts Government Land Bank. Three years later, she was appointed director of the Massachusetts Office of Real Property. In 1984, Whitlock joined Tufts University as an instructor in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy. She became vice president of Harvard Real Estate in 1989. In 1990, she was hired by Concord Academy as assistant head for marketing and associate director of admissions. Two years later, she joined Buckingham Browne & Nichols School where she served as assistant head for enrollment management. From 1999 to 2008, Whitlock served as the Nicholas president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. In 2008, she founded and became principal of The Whitlock Group, which provides management and governance consulting to boards of directors and CEOs. In 2021, Whitlock was appointed by President Joe Biden to the Presidential Commission on White House Fellows.

Whitlock has served on numerous boards including those of the Cambridge Trust Company, Red Sox Foundation, Brigham and Women's Hospital, The Princeton Review, National Association of Corporate Directors New England, Boston Museum of African American History, and Brandeis University. She also has served as co-chair of Women Corporate Directors Boston and has been a member of The Boston Club's Executive Advisory Council, the Boston Women Leaders Network, and the Boston Library Society. Whitlock was appointed to various commissions by Democratic and Republican governors and mayors and served as associate finance director for Dukakis

for President in 1987, co-chaired Obama Victory Trustees in 2012, and was a leading national fundraiser for Hillary for America in 2016.

In 2009, Whitlock was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Bostonians by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. In 2003, she was named one of the Most Powerful Women in Boston by Boston Magazine and was the Boston Municipal Research Bureau's Shattuck City Champion. Whitlock received the National Service to Youth Award from Boys & Girls Clubs of America as well as the Woman of Valor Award from the Anti-Defamation League New England in 2008. In 2011, Whitlock received the Advancing Women Award from the Boston Business Journal, and, in 2017, she received the Abigail Adams Award from the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus. Whitlock holds honorary doctorates from Babson College, Suffolk University, and Pine Manor College.

Whitlock and her husband, Marc Cumsy, have two children, Jake and Leah, and seven grandchildren.

Linda Whitlock was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 23, 2019 and August 20, 2022.

Related Entries

Mary Scott Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

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

Randolph Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Maggie L. Walker High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Mount Holyoke College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

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

M.A.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1981]

Instructor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Massachusetts Government Land Bank [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1983]

Director

The Whitlock Group [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Principal

Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to 2008]

Nicholas President and Chief Executive Officer

Buckingham Browne and Nichols School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1992 to 1999]

Assistant head for enrollment management, advisor, and history teacher

Concord Academy [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to 1992]

Assistant head for marketing, associate director of admissions, advisor, and history teacher

Harvard Real Estate, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1989 to 1990]

Vice President

Dukakis For President Campaign [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1987 to 1987]

Associate finance director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1983 to 1984]

Director, Office of Real Property, Division of Capital Planning and Operations

Tufts University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1984 to 1985]

Instructor in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy

University of Michigan [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1977 to 1978]

Supervisor of Teaching Fellows in Psychology

Cambridge Trust (CATC) [MEMBEROf]
[from 2002 to ?]

Director, Past Lead director, and chair, Governance Committee

Red Sox Foundation [MEMBEROf]
[from 2014 to ?]

Director and Governance Committee Chair

Brigham and Women's Hospital [MEMBEROf]
[from 2006 to 2015]

Trustee and Chair, Governance Committee

AesRx, LLC [MEMBEROf]

[from 2010 to 2014]

Member, Strategic Advisory Board

Education Holdings 1 [MEMBEROF]

[from 2012 to 2013]

Director

The Princeton Review [MEMBEROF]

[from 2009 to 2012]

Director

Brandeis University [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to 2012]

Trustee

Boston Children's Chorus [MEMBEROF]

[from 2006 to 2010]

Trustee

Boston Stock Exchange [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to 2008]

Director

Boston Plan for Excellence in the Public Schools [MEMBEROF]

[from 1999 to 2005]

Trustee

Facing History and Ourselves [MEMBEROF]

[from 1997 to 2005]

Trustee

Museum of Afro American History [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to 2002]

Trustee

Presidential Commission on White House Fellows [MEMBEROF]

[from 2021 to ?]

Member