

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joan Robinson-Berry

PERSON

Robinson-Berry, Joan, 1959-

Alternative Names: Joan Robinson-Berry;

Life Dates: June 16, 1959-

Place of Birth: Hollywood, California, USA

Residence: Sammamish, WA

Occupations: Engineering Executive

Biographical Note

Aerospace engineer Joan Robinson-Berry was born in 1959 in Los Angeles, California. She graduated from Bassett High School in La Puente, California. She received her B.S. degree in 1982 from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and her M.S. degree in 1991 from the University of California, Riverside.

Robinson-Berry started her career out as a design and manufacturing engineer in at General Dynamics. She then served as a program manager at McDonnell Douglas and then joined Boeing in 1986 where she held the roles of program manager of the MD-80/90 Twinjet Programs for Boeing Commercial Airplanes and small business liaison officer. In 2004, she moved to Boeing as director of engineering and technical workforce excellence before being named director of engineering processes, tools and skills within the space and communications unit. She later served as director of small/diverse business and strategic alliances for Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS), and director of Phantom Works Supplier Management for BDS. In 2014, Robinson-Berry was named vice president of the Shared Services Group Supplier Management. Two years later, she served as vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina. In 2018, she was promoted to vice president of engineering, maintenance and modifications and chief engineer for Boeing Global Services. She also served also as an Associate Technical Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and as a Fellow of the African Scientific Institute. Robinson-Berry retired from Boeing in 2020.

In 2012, Robinson-Berry was inducted into the Career Communications Group/Alumni Hall of Fame; and, in 2015, she received the organization's Women of Color Professional Achievement Award. In 2015, she was inducted into California Polytechnic Institute, Pomona's Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2016 and 2017, Robinson-

Berry was recognized as one of Women's Enterprise USA's Top 100 Leaders in Supplier Diversity. She also received the 2017 Woman of the Year STEM award from the NAACP Long Beach Branch. She received honorary doctorate degrees from Charleston Southern University in 2017, Allen University in 2018 and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 2019. Robinson-Berry was also recognized in 2019 by Black Enterprise as one of the most Powerful Women in Corporate America. In 2021, Robinson-Berry was inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame of Women in Aviation International.

Joan Robinson-Berry was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 14, 2021.

Related Entries

Bassett High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

California Polytechnic State University, Pomona [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

BS

West Coast University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

MS

University of California, Riverside [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

MS

Defense Acquisition University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Gillix Systems [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1984]

Co-founder, Director, Consultant

General Dynamics Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1984 to 1986]

Engineer

McDonnell Douglas Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1999]

Senior Engineer

The Boeing Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to 2020]

Management Development, Director of Engineering Processes, Tools, and Skills

California Poly-Pomona Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Charleston Regional Development Alliance Economic Leadership Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Palmetto Business Forum [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

MUSC Foundation Board [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Executive Leadership Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

The Links, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Minority Supplier Development Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Proterra, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Valmont Industries [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Fellow and Board Member

African Scientific Institute [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Fellow

Ghana Aerospace and Aeronautics Society [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Second VP

Coleman/McNair Society [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Co-Founder

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Senior Member

SAE International [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Senior Member

National Action Council for Minority Engineers [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Society of Black Engineers [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Black Engineer of the Year Award [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Alumni Co-chair

Women of Color [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Southern University Engineering Advisory Council [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Technology Access Foundation [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Boeing Women in Leadership [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

By Kids for Kids [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Delta Sigma Theta [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

YMCA of Greater Seattle Black Achievers Program [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Mentor

Jack and Jill [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Girl Scouts of Chicago [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

African-American Museum of Seattle [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Fundraiser

Boeing Employee Community Fund [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Site Team Leader

Conference Board Supplier Diversity Leadership Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Women's Business Enterprise National Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Aerospace Industry Association Tri-Association Small Business Advisor Panel
[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council International Conference
[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

WEConnect International [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Billion Dollar Roundtable [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Focal Women's Leadership Circle [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Diversified Resources [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Girl Scouts [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Women's Affiliation and Volunteer Activity [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Boeing Executive Focal – STEM Women's Initiatives [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Boeing Executive Focal – Women of Color in Technology [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

, ,