

Curriculum Vita of Dorris Ellis Robinson, Ph.D, ABD
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Education

Texas Southern University, Ph.D., Expected May 2012, Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, MA, 1978, Political Science/Public Administration

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, BA, 1972, Speech Communication and Political Science

Areas of Study

- My areas of study are: urban planning and environmental policy, environmental justice, transportation, and public participation. My dissertation topic is “Beyond Sitings: Resident’s Awareness, Knowledge, Concern (worry) and Meaningful Involvement of concrete crushing facilities in Harris, County, TX.” My expected completion date is December 2019 from Southern University in Houston, TX.

Selected Academic Conferences and Presentations

Urban Affairs Association (UAA) conferences: "Obstacles to Democratizing Environmental Decision-Making: Issues of Popular Epidemiology and Trust, "Salt Lake City, Utah, 2005.

“Evaluation of Urban Revitalization, Transportation and Displacement: Houston, TX”, Baltimore, MD, 2007.

Moderated a UAA Session for Environmental Justice Panel, 2008.

“Evaluating the Health Impact of Crushed Concrete Enterprises on Vulnerable Communities” Honolulu, Hawaii, 2010.

“Emancipation Park: A Threaten Asset”; Chicago, Illinois, 2009.

Presenter of Academic Papers at Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) conferences: 2005, 2006; 2007 and at the American Planning Association (APA); 2006; 2007.

"Environmental Justice Impacts: Health, Safety and Sustainable Quality of Life for Low-Income Minorities - What's a Planner to Do?" ACSP, in Fort Worth, Texas. November 9-12, 2006.

Paper Presentation: "Health Impacts of Particulate Matter from Crushed Concrete Facilities on Children of Poverty" ACSP Annual Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, October 27-30, 2005.

Academic Conference Invitation, Attendance

Transportation Board of Planning, Washington, DC 2009

International Transportation Planning Conference Ft. Worth, TX, 2007

Community Reinvestment Association National Conference, Washington, DC 2006

Oxford Round Table, The Oxford Round Table is a not-for-profit educational organization chartered in England and Wales, March 2010 (Due to an emergency, I was not able to attend)

Research Projects and Pending Publications

Currently working on Katrina Decision-Making research, TSU (Pending Publication)

Currently working on Park Use research with Catholic Charities (Pending Publication)

Health Impacts from particulate matter with crushed concrete as the point source (Pending Publication)

Emancipation Park, an Original Community (Pending Publication)

Texas Highways Litter Campaign, NuStat and the University of Texas at Austin

Teaching

Began teaching Political Science in 2007 through the present

I began teaching Introduction to Public Sector Planning and Political Science to juniors, seniors and post bachelorette/graduate students as an adjunct professor at Texas Southern University in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs.

Academic Facilitator

Christian Women Empowerment Conference, 2008

America Speaks, Katrina Going Home Project, 2006, 2007

Urban Land Institute, Katrina Project, 2006

Katrina University Students Community Planning, New Orleans, LA, 2006

Campus Activities-Texas Southern University

Affordable Housing Conference Committee, 2008, 2009; 2010 Moderator

White Houston Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, TSU Chairperson, 2007

Student Planning Organization, President 2004-2006, Texas Southern University, (TSU)

Research Assistant, Dept. Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, (TSU) 2005- 2007

Community Engagement

I have lead extensive successful projects in urban planning whereby, I employed students and community stakeholders in visioning, planning, research, and implementation.

Founder of the Friends of Emancipation Park. Through public participation, I have engaged the city of Houston and the Almeda-Old Spanish Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone to make a combined investment to the 138-year old Emancipation Park of five million dollars. These funds will be used to redevelop the park. To match the public funds, I have organized a Team of Champions of high profile stake holders to raise a matching amount for the work that will be completed by the Freelon Group.

Founder of the Freedmen's Town Preservation Coalition. Focus is to preserve and protect historical cultural properties in History Freedmen's Town, the place freedmen landed after enslavement ended. Raised money to cover a lawsuit to protect the historic bricks made by freedmen and their descendants.

Employment

2018- Present – Visiting Professor School of Public Affairs Texas Southern University

2014-Present- Political Science Professor in the Thomas F. Freeman's Honors College

2007- Adjunct Professor School of Public Affairs Texas Southern University

2004-2007 Graduate Assistant School of Public Affairs Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

Dept, Texas Southern University

2000 – Present Publisher/Editor *SNAP-Sun*, San Antonio, TX

1998 – Present Publisher/Editor, *Sun Gospel*

1996 – Present Publisher/Editor, *Strictly Business, Young TexSun*

1992 - Present Presiding Publisher/Editor, *Sun Life, The Austin Sun* Newspaper, Austin, TX

1983 - Present Publisher/Editor, *The Houston Sun* Newspaper

1982 - 1983 - National Education Association-*TSTA /HTA Advocate*, Editor;
Communications Dept. Director; Houston, Texas

1982 -1980 - National Education Association (NEA)/Arkansas Education Association,
Regional Representative Covering Public Relations, Communication Services,
and Grievances

1978 Summer Worked in the Illinois Senate and drafted legislation that was passed

1971-1980 - Champaign, Ill. Unit IV School District Teacher – Teacher Leader Champaign
Education Association President

Background and Future Statement

I am a native of Lexington, MS and is the 5th child of ten children, earned my Bachelors (1972) and Masters Degrees (1978) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois studying political science, speech communication and journalism. Post earning a Ph.D. from Texas Southern University, I expect to journey elsewhere to continue teaching and research in 2011. I anticipate on during research in the area of community health, transportation, environmental justice, housing, and public participation. I believe that the models learned in business can assist me in the academic community as we teach students and construct research that impacts cities, towns, and the world.

An avid volunteer, and the mother of four, I am currently working to revitalize the Historic Freedmen's Town in Houston, TX. It is a jewel left by freedmen.

I have been invited to speak to business organizations, nonprofits, schools, colleges and universities, and churches on various public policy topics. I tackle whatever topic or theme of the requesting group and write a speech to meet the organization's needs.

I am an entrepreneur, the owner of The Houston Sun newspaper, established in 1983 and with its many awards and community service; it is Houston's number one community newspaper serving the city without fear or favor. I care about my community and the boards to which I contribute my resources of time, talent and money which is a reflection of my investment and commitment to the human community.

I am passionate about learning and teaching and am keen on research topics. I hope to bring my business experience into the classroom and teach others about empowerment and possibilities through academics and research. I believe that students should think, analyze, and synthesize information in the academy of ideas and this is how I teach.

Awards

Has been honored more than 60 times from community and business service work.

Community Leadership: Selected Civic Boards & Commissions where I have served

Elected a 2nd time as President of the Houston League of Business and Professional Women, Inc. in March 2019

Organized the Texas Southern University Volunteer Deputy Registrar Program for students and the community to be engaged in the democratic process.

Founded the African American History Parade in 2014

Serve as President of the Freedmen's Town Preservation Coalition since 2014

Manager of the Friends of Emancipation Park Youth Leadership Urban 4-H Club

Democratic Party Precinct Chairman, November 2008

Organized the Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Advisory Board in 2008 so that the Department could become accredited.

Restarted the Texas Southern University Student Planning Organization, 2008 which aided in the department's accreditation

Planned the Texas Southern University White House Conference on HBCU's event in 2008

Friends of Emancipation Park, President, 2007-Present, Houston, TX

NANBPWC, Director of Resources, July 2003-2005

NANBPWC National Board of Directors, July 2003-2005

NANBPWC, South Central District, Secretary; 2001-2003

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's Women Advisory Committee, 2001-Present

NANBPWC, Inc. Entrepreneur Council Chairperson; 1999-2003

NANBPWC, South Central District Time & Place Chair; 2001-2003

NANBPWC, South Central District Publicity Chair; 2001-2005

NANBPWC, South Central District Bylaws; 1999-2000

NANBPWC, South Central District Host Club, President Two District Conferences, 1998-2003

Houston League of Business & Professional Women, Inc., President, 1996-2003

US Small Business Administration Advisory Board, 1992-present, appointed by George Bush

United States Small Business Administration- Region IV Advisory Awards Committee

City of Houston Zoo Board, appointed by Mayor Lee Brown, 2002

Houston Metropolitan Youth Sports Association, President of Board, 2002-Present

US Women Advisory Board, appointed by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, 1999

Reward Third Ward Community Development Corporation Commissioner

Museum of Health Science, Communications Board

Appointed by Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown, to his Transition Team

Sheltering Arms Senior Services, Secretary, 2001-Present

Langston University Parents Association, Secretary; Langston, OK

Texas Community Newspaper Association, Board Member

J.J. McClain High School Class of 1968 Board Member

Houston Association of Black Journalist, Immediate Past President

YWCA of Houston, Past President

Press Club of Houston, Past President

Press Club of Houston Education Foundation, Past Secretary

Sheltering Arms for Elder Care, Exec. -Committee Chair - Volunteer Committee

Founding Member Texas Publishers Association: Past President, Past Secretary, Past Treasurer

Governor's Task Force in Literacy, appointed by Gov. Mark White
Houston Read Council Commissioner, appointed by Mayor Kathy Whitmire
Founder of Texas Publisher's Association, 1985 with five men, the only female was me
Houston Assault on Illiteracy Program, Board, 1984-94
Blue Triangle YWCA, Committee on Administration, Secretary
Houston Sun Literacy Academy, President, 1986-94
Houston Crackdown - Steering Committee Member
Texas Southern University - Blacks and Cancer Steering Committee
Women's Business Forum Speaker
Mickey Leland World Hunger Center Commission, Texas Southern University, Advisory Board
Houston Health and Medical Science Advisory Board
University of Houston Blaffer Gallery, Advisory Board
Women for Christ Ministries, Advisory Board
University of Houston Communications Dept. Advisory Board
Top Ladies of Distinctions, Status of Women Commission, Advisory Board
Served as the public relations director of the NAACP 1984-86

Personal

Married to Lonal Robinson and have four children. Widowed in 2012. I am a member of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church and enjoy singing in the choir.

I love sports and can discuss them with anybody. My hobbies are gardening, volunteering, and planning events and programs. In recognition of my volunteer efforts, President George W. Bush honored me as a Points of Light and was remembered again in 2010 when President Barack Obama celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Presidential Volunteer Core.

My Assets

What I have to offer your academy and university community is 40-years of community engagement in the towns of Lexington, Mississippi; Champaign, Illinois; Springfield, Illinois; Madison, Arkansas and Houston, Texas. I believe that my active community investment lifestyle will be an added value as I work with the academic community, the students and the university. My childhood village taught me to learn and share, and with this Ph.D. and my plethora of experience, I believe that I have something to offer and therefore, believe that I am as a person works well with the TSU, students and distinguished faculty. For I bring knowledgeable, innovation, experience, energy, and preparedness to do the job well.

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