

“Because They Deserve It”

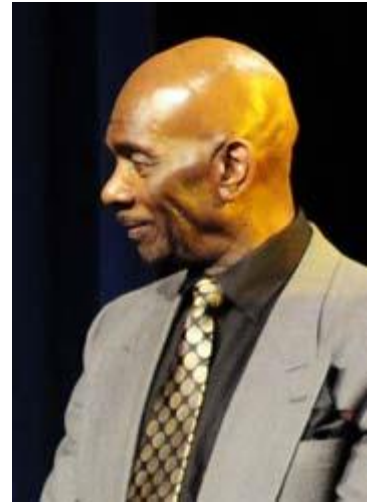
While the evening was focused on Henry Lewis Gates Jr., it was also about other West Virginians who have made great accomplishments. The HistoryMakers honored Dr. Hazo W. Carter Jr., Lou Myers and Andrea L. Taylor as part of the West Virginia taping, too.



In his introduction of them, B. Keith Fulton, president of Verizon West Virginia, told the audience how this project was something he wanted to bring to West Virginia; so, he approached Richardson.

“When I was asked why (Verizon) was doing this and I realized that each of these honorees is an example of what all of us all capable of,” he paused and looked around the auditorium, with emphasis, “All of us!”

“Once, when I was in college and wasn’t doing good in school I started reading about history. I read about people who were achieving. Now, I stand before you as president of Verizon West Virginia. These honorees inspire me. But more importantly, they deserve it.”



Actor Lou Myers was born in Chesapeake, W.Va., and attended West Virginia State University.

Myers recently completed his fifth appearance on Broadway in “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” African American Style. He is working with Debbie Allen and Robin Givens on a new sitcom entitled "My Parents, My Sister and Me." He performs a one-man cabaret show, "Just a little bit of Somethin'," at Windows Over Harlem in New York. He also appeared in “Oprah Winfrey’s The Color Purple” on Broadway.

Myers’ TV credits include: NYPD Blue, EVE, E.R., The Cosby Show, Touched By An Angel, Jag and The Jamie Fox Show. He may be best known as the restaurant owner “Mr. Gaines” on the, hit television series “A Different World”.



Dr. Hazo W. Carter Jr. became president of West Virginia State College in 1987 and worked to turn it into West Virginia State University by 2004.

Dr. Carter is focused on demonstrating the institution's economic impact as the largest institution of higher education in the Kanawha Valley. He successfully led a 12-year effort to regain the institution's 1890 land-grant status at the state and federal levels.

Dr. Carter has received many awards in recognition of his distinguished service, including "Distinguished West Virginian" awards by former Governors Gaston Caperton and Bob Wise; "Honorary West Virginian" by Governor Joe Manchin; and designation as "President of the Century" by the West Virginia State College (University) National Alumni Association in recognition of his success to regain land-grant status.



Andrea L. Taylor graduated from Charleston High School after her parents moved back to the Kanawha Valley during the first year of school desegregation. As a student, Taylor joined the West Virginia delegation in the 1963 March on Washington, an experience that inspired her career's commitment to human and civil rights issues.

Taylor is Director of North America Community Affairs for Microsoft Corporation. Since 2006, she has managed the Microsoft's Unlimited Potential program team to advance employability and work force development in the United States and Canada. She works closely with nonprofit organizations, government and business to develop partnerships to further the goals and help create social and economic opportunities. She also is the president of the Benton Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based public interest media group.