

Ayinde Budd and Gene Coleman interviewing Vincent Oliver clip 2
Topic: Working at the University of Delaware

[Vincent Oliver continues talking about his time employed at the University of Delaware.]

Vincent Oliver: I left fairly abruptly—I wasn't fired or dismissed or anything like that—but in my interests for getting, um, to advance professionally, I applied for a position as an assistant dean of students I can't even remember what the specifics were, they took a national search. I felt the, how can I put this I felt my professional colleagues laughing at me for even applying for the position—I'm talking about my white professional colleagues. Nevertheless, I entered my resume into the national search and they interviewed I think about 15 candidate and narrowed it down to I believe four finalists and they ranked the finalists, they ranked me third. We did a second set of interviews and then they began the hiring process. They offered the job to the first gentleman, who was from out of town and he turned the job down because his wife either couldn't find employment in Delaware or something. The second person was offered the position and whatever the extenuating circumstances were, he turned the position down. So here they are with the candidate number 3 who everybody had snickered at for applying for the position. And then someone in, one of the vice presidents, I think it was one of the Provosts, made the decision to discontinue the search. No reasons, just discontinued the search. And then about a month later, the position was re-posted and, the criteria required someone with a doctoral degree. So, they very nicely sidestepped [laughs] the final candidate. So, that's when it came to me that the University didn't want, really didn't want to do what they said they wanted to do. They talk a good game, and they still talk a good game. And, they're not going to get around to doing some of the things that they say they want to do until some external pressures or some financial issues force them to do that. And uh, every now and then they'll come around and they'll say stuff but from my perspective—40 years ago—they still doing the same stuff. The same core mentality is there at the upper levels—and I'm talking about administrators and trustees. Because, I don't see movement in the areas where, they could do a better job of serving the needs of so many Black students who choose University of Delaware.