

John W. Bluford III Papers (SC226)

Introduction

This collection contains biographical material, correspondence, articles, reports, presentations, photographs, DVDs, and publications highlighting the career of healthcare administrator John W. Bluford III. Bluford served in multiple administrative roles in Minneapolis, Minnesota, before becoming the Executive Director and CEO of Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1998. He retired from that position in 2014 but has since continued his work in the field as the founder and president of the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: John W. Bluford III
Title: John W. Bluford III Papers
Dates: 1975-2017
Size: 2.58 linear feet, 3 boxes, 1 oversize folder
Collection Number: SC226

Donor Information

Gift, 2016-2019, John W. Bluford III.

Citation Note

John W. Bluford III Papers (SC226), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Related Collections: Additional materials with information regarding John W. Bluford III may be found by searching the local history collections at www.kchistory.org.

Biographical Sketch

John W. Bluford III is a nationally recognized healthcare administrator with over 40 years of experience. Raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Columbia, South Carolina, Bluford attended Fisk University and Northwestern University before beginning his career as an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control. His first hospital role was as a night administrator at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. He soon moved to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he served in various leadership roles – including CEO – for 21 years. While in Minneapolis, Bluford also led the Pilot City Health Center.

In 1998, John Bluford accepted the position of Executive Director and CEO of Truman Medical Centers (TCM) in Kansas City, Missouri. During his tenure at TCM,

Bluford worked to expand the physical presence of the organization, raise its profile as an efficient and modern healthcare facility, and increase community engagement and support. Bluford retired from this position in 2014 but has remained active in the professional field. He continues to serve as president of the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute, which he founded in 2013.

Among his many achievements, Bluford has served as Chair for the Missouri Hospital Association (2006), Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (2007), National Association of Public Hospitals (2009), and the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees (2011).

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, articles, reports, presentations, photographs, DVDs, and publications highlighting the career of John Bluford. Materials are arranged primarily by type, subject, and chronological order.

Series 1: Oral history, 2003-2017

This series contains two copies of “John W. Bluford III in First Person: An Oral History.” It is a printed, edited version of an interview conducted by Kim M. Garber with Bluford on October 14, 2016. Related correspondence is also included.

Series 2: Healthcare administration career, 1975-2014

Materials in this series include reports, correspondence, organizational charts, newsletters, presentations, and articles relating to the career of John Bluford. Materials are arranged by type, hospital, and chronologically where possible.

Series 3: Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute, 2013-2016

An agenda, articles, and annual reports for the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute are included in this series. Materials are arranged by type and chronological order

Series 4: Photographs, 1990 and n.d.

This series contains photographs of John Bluford at various points during his career. Notable individuals included are Rev. Jesse Jackson, Kansas City Chiefs owner Clark Hunt, and President Barack Obama. Most of the photographs are undated.

Series 5: Awards and achievements, 1990-2015 and n.d.

Items in this series relate to many of the professional achievements of John Bluford. Included are event programs and invitations, correspondence, press releases, certificates, DVDs of award presentations, and memory books. They are arranged by type and therein chronologically.

Collection Inventory

Items with an "OS" notation are located in SC Oversize box 1.

Series 1: Oral history, 2016-2017

- f. 1 "John W. Bluford III in First Person: An Oral History" (2 copies) and correspondence, 2016-2017

Series 2: Healthcare administration career, 1975-2014 and n.d.

- f. 2 Cook County Hospital Recommendations for the Reorganization of Staff and Operating Procedures for the Improved Services in the Emergency Room Area, May 23, 1975
- f. 3 Hennepin County Medical Center correspondence, 1981-1999
- f. 4 *Scanner*, Hennepin County Medical Center newsletter, 1985-1998
- f. 5 "Metropolitan Health Plan: Hennepin County Medical Center's HMO," "Lessons from a County Teaching Hospital's Experience with an HMO," and correspondence, 1993-1994
- f. 6 *Alumni Quarterly*, Hennepin County Medical Center, June 1995
- f. 7 Pilot City Health Center employee organizational chart, September 24, 1984
- f. 8 Pilot City Health Center correspondence, 1977-1986
- f. 9 Truman Medical Centers administrative chart, August 6, 2012
- f. 10 Truman Medical Center correspondence, 1998-2014
- f. 11 *Pinnacle*, Truman Medical Centers newsletter, 1999-2014
- f. 12 Truman Medical Centers Corporate Academy course schedule, 2001
- f. 13 Truman Medical Centers artwork program, 2010
- f. 14 Truman Medical Center Community Benefit Reports, 2009-2012
- f. 15 Assorted documents, presentations, charts, and graphs regarding Truman Medical Centers, 2001-2012
- f. 16 Truman Medical Centers presentation slides and notes, 2002-2014
- f. 17 Articles by John Bluford, 1979-2014
- f. 18 Articles regarding John Bluford, 1978-2014 and n.d.
- f. 19 Magazines and journals with articles regarding John Bluford, 1995-2013
- f. 20 Magazines and journals with articles regarding John Bluford, 2013-2014 and n.d.
- f. 21 American Hospital Association articles regarding John Bluford, 2009-2012

Series 3: Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute, 2013-2016

- f. 22 Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute Agenda, 2013
- f. 23 Articles and publications relating to the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute, 2013-2016
- f. 24 Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute annual reports, 2015-2016

Series 4: Photographs, 1990 and n.d.

- f. 25 Photographs, 1990 and n.d.

Series 5: Awards and achievements, 1995-2015 and n.d.

- f. 26 Event programs and invitations, 1995-2015
- f. 27 Correspondence, press releases, and documents regarding awards and achievements, 2003-2013 and n.d.
- f. 28 Awards and achievements, 2004-2012 (OS)
NOTE: One award certificate is housed in SC Oversize box 1.
- f. 29 Award presentation DVDs, 2009-2013
- f. 30 American Hospital Association investiture supporting materials, 2009-2012
- f. 31 American Hospital Association investiture reception book, April 10, 2011
- f. 32 *John W. Bluford: A Pillar of Leadership*, Truman Medical Centers, 2014

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