

Bernard E. Powers, Jr.
History

2011 Distinguished Advising Award



DR. BERNARD EDWARD POWERS JR. is the eldest son of Mr. Bernard E. Powers Sr. and Mrs. Mildred Powers. Bernard graduated cum laude from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter Minnesota, where he received the bachelor's degree in history. Further studies were undertaken at Northwestern University where he earned the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American history. Dr. Powers has in excess of thirty years in higher education. At Malcolm X College he served as Behavioral Sciences Curriculum Coordinator and Lecturer in Social Science 1977-78. From 1978-1992 he was employed at Northeastern Illinois University where he served as associate professor of history and department chairman. Since 1992 he has been employed at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina as professor of history teaching courses in United States and African American history. He has been Director of the Master's Program in History and is presently associate chairman of the department. Professor Powers has frequently given speeches and presented numerous papers at professional conferences, on different aspects of the African American experience. He has served as a manuscript referee for academic presses and has reviewed books for several academic journals including the Journal of American History, the Journal of Southern History, the Georgia Historical Quarterly and the South Carolina Historical Magazine. His published work appears in book chapters and in scholarly and popular periodicals. He is the author of Black Charlestonians: A Social History 1822-1885, published by the University of Arkansas Press (1994). This book was selected by Choice magazine as one of the Outstanding Academic Books for 1995. He has recently served as an associate editor of the Encyclopedia of South Carolina published in fall 2006. His present work focuses on the development of African Methodism in South Carolina. Dr. Powers is a past president of the Advisory Board of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, at the College of Charleston.

Dr. Powers is a member of several professional and community organizations. Some examples are the Organization of American Historians and the South Carolina Historical Society. He is past president of the Charleston Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and is a former member of the Board of Trustees for the Historic Charleston Foundation. Dr. Powers is also a member of the Tourism Commission for the City of Charleston. Believing that an active spiritual life is also important, Dr. Powers is a member of Morris Brown A.M.E. Church where he serves as a Class Leader and member of the Steward Board. He is married to Lorraine O. Powers who is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and Governor's State University. She is a retired school administrator from the Dorchester County District Two School System.