

From the Desk Of

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RESUME SUMMARY

Professional Preparation

A.A. Degree in General Studies from Florida State College - 1969
B.A. Degree in English from Bethune-Cookman University - 1971
M.A. Degree in English and American Literature - Clark Atlanta University - 1973
Ph.D. Degree in English and American Literature - Indiana University of Pa. - 1987

Professional Career

Dr. Simmons-Hutchins retired from Florida State College at Jacksonville after a 37-year association with the institution as a student, faculty member, and administrator. Her teaching positions were in the areas of English Composition, Literature and the Humanities. Dr. Simmons' last position was Executive Dean for Instruction and Student Services responsible for the liberal arts, workforce and student success programs at the North Campus.

Scholarly Interests and Professional Travel

Dr. Simmons-Hutchins has a particular interest in writings by and about Zora Neale Hurston and other Black women writers. She is the author of articles on student success and student retention and has published literary critiques.

She has done significant international travel including Humanities and Study Tours to European, African and Caribbean countries. She is the former team leader for a Higher Educational Alternative Project in Senegal, West Africa, consulting with the government to establish a community college in Senegal. The first class graduated in the spring of 2010.

Community Leadership

- Jacksonville Black History Calendar –Co-Creator and developer - 24 publications as of February, 2013.
- Jacksonville Women’s Network – 1997-present (President 2013)
- Jacksonville Public Library Board of Trustees – 2009-present (Vice Chair from 2010-2012; Chair – 2012-present)
- Community First Credit Union of Florida – 1993-present (Treasurer 2011-present and member of the Executive Committee for 10 years, serving in capacities of Secretary and Vice Chair)
- Florida Humanities Council – 2007-present (Member of the Executive Council 2011-present)

Continuous Community Leadership

- Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (Former President, Current Parliamentarian, Life Member)
- Jacksonville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated (Former President, Current Arts Committee Chair)
- Association for the Study of African American Life and History – James Weldon Johnson Chapter – Charter Member
- N.A.A.C.P. – Silver Life Subscribing Member
- National Council of Negro Women – Life Member

Awards and Recognition

Dr. Simmons-Hutchins has received numerous awards over the span of her career including:

- Legacy Award from the National Council on Black American Affairs, an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges - 2012
- Magnificent 100, an outstanding alumnus of Bethune Cookman University – 2008
- Congressional and City Council Commendations on 35-years as an educator in the Jacksonville community - 2008
- Quality Leadership, a competitive recognition given to one Florida State College Administrator and Professional Employee each year – 2007

As an active retiree, Dr. Simmons-Hutchins has been involved in the following activities:

- 2nd Vice President of the 11th Episcopal District (Florida and the Bahamas) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's (AMEC) Women's Missionary Society
- Co- developer of the Dorothy Adams Peck Emerging Leaders Institute (AMEC) for women missionaries between the ages of 18-40.
- Co-writer for a book (not yet published) on the late Ezekiel Bryant, former North Campus President at Florida State College.
- Board member for the Florida Humanities Council, providing among other service, reviews and recommendations regarding submissions on Zora Neale Hurston, Florida's great novelist, folklorist and anthropologist.
- Consultant and panelist for Stage Aurora's Big Read (March 2012) on "To Kill a Mockingbird," delivering a paper entitled "Calpurnia, Aibileen and Minnie: Playing the Role of a Human"
- Contributor to strategic planning development for Community First Credit Union (current Board Treasurer), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.(former President and current Parliamentarian) and the Jacksonville Chapter of the Links, Inc.(former President and current Arts Committee Chair)
- Chair of the Jacksonville Public Library's Board of Directors.
- President of the Jacksonville Women's Network
- Administrative Liaison and creative force behind the publication of the Jacksonville Black History Calendar
- Member 2012 Review Committee for JCCI's Quality of Life Progress Report

She is married to her high school classmate, Elder Leroy Hutchins, Jr. of Shekinah Global International Ministries (Lithonia, Georgia.) She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roxwell (Janie) Robinson (Jacksonville). She is the mother of Benjamin C. Simmons, II, a McIntosh County (Ga.) Academy English teacher and football/track coach. Her grandsons are Benjamin C. Simmons, III, and Desmond Hall. Her church affiliation is with St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church (Jacksonville).