

## **Robert W. Simmons III, EdD**

rsimmons.depd@gmail.com

<http://robertwsimmonsiii.com/>

### **SUMMARY**

Forward thinking leader and respected educational advocate with a record for innovation, community engagement, and knowledge of education research. Experience orchestrating educational programs in K-12 and higher education, budget creation, talent management, data cycles and professional development. Strong skill set in educational research, classroom instruction, understanding climate and culture in schools and connecting schools/universities to urban communities.

### **EXPERIENCE—K-12**

#### **District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)**

Chief of Innovation & Research

#### **Washington DC**

June 2014 - Current

- Built the first Office of Innovation & Research in the District of Columbia Public Schools which is responsible for research collaborations, reducing the achievement gap through innovative programming and focused usage of data.
- Chief architect of the Empowering Males of Color (EMOC) initiative in DCPS. The initiative was adopted by the Mayor's office as part of the My Brothers Keeper initiative.
- Responsible for managing 5-8 staff members and interns with a additional number of staffers reporting through a dotted line reporting structure.
- Budget managed is between \$1-2 million of local dollars and responsible for co-managing private funding ranging between \$10-20 million over three years.
- Built the 500 for 500: Mentoring through Literacy program in DCPS. Recruited over 1500 volunteers to serve as mentors in collaboration with local and national non-profits.
- Supported the research associated with 9<sup>th</sup> grade academies, effectiveness of early childhood professional development, culturally relevant science pedagogy, and triangulated data analysis of achievement for lowest performing schools in DCPS.
- Built cross-district collaboration using data to drive innovations and interventions related to the academic achievement and social-emotional development of boys of color.
- Led the development of a strength-based early childhood professional development program in collaboration with the Office of Head Start National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness at Bank Street College.
- Collaborated with Office of Human Capital to reimagine recruitment of male teachers of color. Led to a one-year increase of 47%.
- Led the development and contract negotiations of the first single gender school in DCPS.
- Authored RFP for a \$5 million internal grant program focusing on academic achievement, social-emotional supports, and family/community engagement.
- Collaborated with the DC Public Education Fund to raise private dollars to support EMOC. Goal is \$20 million over three years. To date we have raised close to \$3 million since January 2015.
- Collaborated with three universities on research grants through IES and school based funding.
- Authored curricular resources focusing on teaching about racial incidents in Ferguson, MO. Received media attention including CNN, *Teaching Tolerance*, and local news.

#### **Discovery Education, Silver Spring, MD**

**2013-2015**

Professional development specialist (consultant)

- Responsible for delivering professional development throughout the United States.
- Utilized digital media products developed by Discovery Education to train teachers
- Built STEM camp curriculum.

**Osseo Area Schools #279, Brooklyn Park, MN**

**2005-2006**

Behavior Intervention Teacher, K-6 (assistant principal)

- Serve as acting principal in the absence of the principal.
- Responsible for managing all behavior supports in the building.
- Member of the principal's leadership team.
- Collaborated with the cultural liaison to reduce the suspension rate for African American students.

**Rochester Public Schools, Rochester, MN**

**2003-2005**

Summer School Principal, Riverside Elementary

- Provided leadership and supervision in the areas of instructional leadership, staff development, staff evaluation, data analysis, operations, finance, and discipline.

Fourth grade teacher (lead teacher)

6-8 Social Studies teacher (Multi-age classroom in a K-8 school)

**International School of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)**

**1998 (fall)**

Second grade teacher

**Detroit Public Schools, Detroit, MI**

**1997-2003**

6-8 science teacher, sixth grade math teacher at a K-8 school

Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (6-12), teacher

**EXPERIENCE—HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD**

**2013-2014**

Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC), Affiliated Researcher

- Collaborated with other researchers on various projects related to public education in Baltimore City Public Schools.
- Primary project was the development of a research based high school reform model focusing on over-age, under-credited students at the largest high school in Baltimore.

**Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland**

**2009-2015**

Associate Professor of Urban Education (tenured)

Assistant Professor of Urban Education

Director, Center for Innovation in Urban Education

Director, Institute for Urban Catholic Education

Associated faculty, African and African American Studies Minor

- Founding director of the Center for Innovation in Urban Education and Institute for Urban Catholic Education.
- Co-PI on a major grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop and study virtual science labs in collaboration with colleagues at Illinois State University ([www.mind.ilstu.edu](http://www.mind.ilstu.edu)) (\$1,301,730/5 years).
- Constructed and implemented a dual enrollment program between the university and a public school in Baltimore.
- Founded Urban Needs in Teacher Education chapter. Designed to improve pre-service teachers understanding of urban education and communities through imbedded professional development and community engagement.
- Responsible for leading or collaborating on over \$1 million in funded grants (federal, local, and private funding).

- Taught courses in the teacher education department, Montessori training program, and African/African American studies program.
- Conducted and published research in various journals, books, and mainstream press outlets (over 30 publications).
- Responsible for the management of research budgets and managing staff at both centers.
- Developed collaborations with public/private schools in Baltimore and various community groups.
- Developed a community based RFP to support the work of Baltimore non-profits.
- Consultant to over 50 schools and school districts.
- Collaborated with two blue ribbon schools in Cincinnati, OH and St. Paul, MN to lead the development of national models for service learning and school based mentoring.

*Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI*

2007-2009

Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction

Faculty Associate, Office of Academic Service Learning & GEAR UP

#### SELECTED AWARDS & HONORS

2014 Faculty Award for Excellence in Engaged Scholarship, Nominated

Corporation for National & Community Service, Emerging Scholar in Service-Learning

Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program

Whitney and Elizabeth Macmillan Foundation Outstanding Educator Award Nominee

Walt Disney Company National Teacher of the Year Nominee

Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (Leadership Program for Teachers), Costa Rica

Environmental Science Institute

#### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Board of Directors, Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School, Baltimore, MD

American Education Research Association

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Jones, K., van Belle, L., Johnson, G., & Simmons, R. (2015). Beyond the Common Core and the politics of education reform: The Role of school counselors and teachers in facilitating the college and career readiness of urban students. In E. Zamani-Gallaher (Ed.), *The Obama Administration and Educational Reform*. United Kingdom: Emerald Group Publishing.

Simmons, R. (2014). Navigating intraracial and interracial relationships at a Jesuit high school: Using resilience theory and Critical Race Theory to craft a framework for success. *Journal of African American Males in Education*, 5 (2), 167-181.

Simmons, R., Moore-Thomas, C., & Watson, A. (2014). Young scholars: African American males and academic identity development. In Y. Sealey-Ruiz, C. Lewis, & I. Toldson (Eds.), *Teacher Education & the Black Community: Implications for Access, Equity, and Achievement*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishers.

Grineski, S., Landsman, J., & Simmons, R. (Eds.) (2013). *Talking about race: Alleviating the Fear*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

Simmons, R. (2013). It can be done and it must be done: Creating educational excellence for African American girls in urban science classrooms. In E. Zamani-Gallaher & V. Polite (Eds.), *The State of the African American Female in Michigan: A Courageous Conversation*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press.

Simmons, R., Carpenter, R., Ricks, J., Walker, D., Parks, M., & Davis, M. (2013). African American male teachers and African American students: Working subversively through hip-hop in three urban schools. *International Journal of Critical Pedagogy*, 4 (2), 69-86.

James, M.C., Smith, W., Simmons, R., & Levy, C. (2013). Excellence and equity: The impact of racial inopportunity on student development and achievement at Windsor High School. Chicago, IL: Center for School Evaluation, Intervention and Training, Loyola University Chicago and Center for Innovation in Urban Education, Loyola University Maryland.

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Simmons, R. (2014, December). Being clear about race in America. Invited keynote by Putting Race on the Table: Race Matters Conference. Omaha, NE.

Simmons, R., Carranza, R., & Skorkowsky, P. (2014, October). Improving the achievement of young men of color. Invited panel discussion at the Council of Great Schools 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference. Milwaukee, WI.

#### SELECTED GRANTS AWARDED

Smith, J., & Simmons, R. (2014). *21st Century Community Learning Center, CommunitySTEAM*. Funded project through the Maryland State Department of Education (subawardee in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Baltimore) (\$94,000/3 years). Role: Principal Investigator. (Center for Innovation in Urban Education)

Simmons, R. (2013). *Equity and Excellence*. Funded project through Connecticut State Department of Education, Winsor Alliance Grant, & Loyola University Chicago (subcontract) (\$12,100). Role: Principal Investigator & Project Director. (Center for Innovation in Urban Education)

Alexander, J., Burke, W., & Simmons, R. (2008). *Michigan service scholarship award for student teaching*. Funded project from Michigan Campus Compact and Americorps (\$50,000/2 years), (1/1/2008-6/12/2010). Role: Co-Project Director.

Anderson, D., Simmons, R., & Harland, D. (2008). *The MIND project's cutting edge health science initiative*. Funded project from the National Institutes of Health (\$1,301,730/5 years), (3/20/2006-2/28/2011). Role: Co-Principal Investigator.

Simmons, R. (2008). *Building communities, building lives*. Funded project from Michigan Campus Compact and Learn and Serve America (\$64,000/2 year), (10/6/08-6/1/2010) Role: Project director

#### EDUCATION

**Hamline University, School of Education, St. Paul, MN** **May 2007**  
Doctorate in Education, Focus: Education leadership and urban education

**Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, MI** **May 2001**  
College of Arts & Science, Master of Science Education

**Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI** **December 1997**  
College of Education, Bachelor of Science  
Major: Elementary Education, Minor: Math/Science & Social Science