

House Resolution No. 103

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives occasionally pause in their diverse legislative endeavors in order to acknowledge milestone events in the lives and careers of Show-Me State educators; and

Whereas, Mary Williams Simmons has maintained a lifelong association with institutions of higher learning since her birth on the campus of Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, on February 26, 1945, as the seventh child and third daughter of Mary C. and George Williams; and

Whereas, attending parochial school in Tuskegee and graduating from Soldan High School in St. Louis, Mary Simmons returned to Tuskegee Institute to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in industrial education in 1967 and then to study higher education administration at the Master's level, serve as an Intern and as the Director of the residence hall, and work in career planning and placement; and

Whereas, in 1969 Mary Simmons accepted employment at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, as Assistant Dean of Women during a time of nationwide social and political unrest which focused on the Vietnam war and civil rights; and

Whereas, appointed Dean of Women in August 1970, Mary Simmons diligently set about to encourage important changes to the institution's policies and facilities, including the development of Dawson Hall housing, construction of a new health center, rewriting of the legally questionable in loco parentis standards of the school, incorporation of much-needed due process procedures for student disciplinary actions, establishment of a mandatory housing policy to assist in the integration of dormitories, and introduction of intervisitation rights; and

Whereas, Mary Simmons subsequently held the positions of Director of Career Planning and Placement, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Director of Alumni Affairs, and Director of Retention, the office from which she is now retiring after thirty-two years in higher education:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-first General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the exemplary education, knowledge, and practices of Mary Simmons and to convey to her this legislative body's heartiest congratulations upon her retirement from the position of Director of Retention at Lincoln University and our best wishes for a bright future full of hope, peace, and the multitude of opportunities and pleasures traditionally associated with the golden years of retirement; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the retirement of Mary Williams Simmons from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Yvonne S. Wilson
District No. 42

I, Jim Kreider, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 103, adopted January 23, 2002.

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