

Adie Simmons, Director

Adie Simmons, M.Ed., is the founding Director of the Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO). She was hired by the Governor's Office to develop the OEO after the Washington State legislature passed a law creating the new agency in 2006. The Office of the Education Ombudsman resolves disputes and conflict between parents and public school officials that impact student academic progress. OEO promotes school-family partnerships and makes recommendations to public officials based on data collected.

For over 25 years, Ms. Simmons' has worked to improve the education and wellbeing of children and families. She started her career as a pre-school teacher while attending college and went on to teach English as a Second Language and Spanish as a foreign language.

As a firm believer in the participation of families and the community in public schools, she later focused her career on developing and directing programs such as the elementary school Readiness to Learn program for Shoreline Public Schools and the elementary Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) program for Mothers Against Violence in America.

Prior to her current position, she established and managed the Office of Family and Community Partnerships for Seattle Public Schools. Her office, a collaborative endeavor of Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, provided schools with grants and technical assistance to integrate family involvement practices into student academic goals. Her office was awarded the 2004 National Partnership Award from Johns Hopkins University, MD.

She has authored and contributed to articles and manuals on topics regarding family and community involvement in schools and is also a recognized trainer and public speaker. She has developed a series of training seminars for K-12 teachers to better involve families in education, and classes for families to learn about the public school system and how to partner with schools. Ms. Simmons has presented in a host of national and state conferences, been interviewed on NPR Radio, and featured in magazine and newspaper articles.

Ms. Simmons is a long-time community activist and volunteer. She has served in numerous boards and decision-making committees at local and state levels. She volunteered for school PTAs for 18 years, serving as a PTA President and Council Vice-president and heading various committees. She was awarded four PTA Golden Acorn Awards for outstanding children advocacy work.

In 1997 she received the Governor's Washington State Excellence in Education Award from Governor Gary Locke in recognition of her contributions to the education system in our state.

Ms. Simmons holds a Master's Degree in Education from Western Washington University and a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from the University of Washington. She is married and has 2 daughters.