

Dr. Virginia Gill Simmons



Board Director

Dr. Virginia Gill Simmons is a retired educational leader, licensed real estate professional, and nonprofit executive who brings a unique combination of expertise in education, governance, and facilities planning to the Darden-Perry Academy Board of Directors. A resident of Wilmington, North Carolina, she continues to work part-time as a licensed Real Estate Broker with Intracoastal Realty, where she assists clients with property transactions, site evaluation, contract review, negotiations, and due diligence. She is also an active member of the Rotary Club of Wilmington, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to community service and educational advancement.

Dr. Simmons earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education and Educational Administration from Kent State University, a Master of Science in Special Education from Marshall University, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, English, and Social Studies from West Virginia State College. Throughout her distinguished career, she served as Principal and Director of Adult Education for Horry County Schools and as State Coordinator of Special Education and Gifted Programs for the West Virginia Department of Education, providing leadership in educational administration, program development, and statewide initiatives.

Following her retirement from public education, Dr. Simmons has continued serving her community through part-time work in real estate and civic engagement. She also founded and served as President of the Russia and West Virginia: A Partnership for Exchange Foundation, providing strategic leadership, financial stewardship, and oversight for more than 400 international educational exchanges.

As a member of the Darden-Perry Academy Board of Directors, Dr. Simmons serves as the Board's primary advisor on facilities, real estate, and long-term campus planning. She

provides expertise in facilities planning, lease and contract review, real estate evaluation, risk management, strategic planning, and nonprofit governance, helping ensure the Academy makes informed decisions regarding property acquisition, lease negotiations, and future expansion.

Dr. Simmons' dedication to educational excellence, servant leadership, and community engagement supports Darden-Perry Academy's mission of creating North Carolina's first dual-language charter school where deaf and hearing students learn together through English and American Sign Language.