

Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins, Ph.D.
Independent Educational Consultant
Former Executive Dean for Instruction and Student Services at
Florida State College at Jacksonville

Biographical Statement for Dr. Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins



Dr. Simmons-Hutchins is a very active retiree in her hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. She finished one phase of her career, retiring from Florida State College at Jacksonville in 2008 after a 37-year association with the institution as a student, faculty member, and administrator. Her teaching positions included the disciplines of English Composition, Literature and the Humanities. She holds the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees in English from Bethune-Cookman University, Clark-Atlanta University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, respectively.

During the early part of her career, Dr. Simmons-Hutchins administered and successfully implemented programs designed to recruit and retain African-American students at the institution and through her leadership, marked increases in enrollment and retention were realized. Later, as the chief academic and student services leader, Dr/ Simmons-Hutchins implemented existing programs and developed new programs and services designed to meet the educational needs of the community.

For thirty years, Dr. Simmons-Hutchins matched her interest in research and writing to her desire to educate her community on the accomplishments of African American citizens through the development, publishing and distribution of the Jacksonville Black History Calendar. With a fifty-thousand calendar annual production number, information on the accomplishments of African-Americans on the First Coast has been delivered directly to homes, schools, churches, businesses, and organizations across the length and breadth of Jacksonville, the State of Florida and selected cities across the nation. All publications since 1989 have been digitized and are available at the Jacksonville Public Library.