

VESTAL ANTHONY SIMMS-HOWELL

I was born in the Republic of Panama. I migrated with my wife, Julieta M. Simms, to the US in 1968. Volunteering is a way of life for us. We restricted our time to those organizations whom policy provide opportunities that improve quality of life for individuals, their families and their communities.

Current Community Involvement

- Dean Commissioner – Ohio Commission on Hispanic Latino Affairs
- Local Board Member of United States Selective Service System
- Board of Trustee & Executive Committee member of OKI Regional Council of Governments
- Founding Member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati
- Founding Member of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky
- Founding Member of LULAC of Greater Cincinnati

Past Community Involvement

- Board Member of the FBI Citizen Academy Foundation
- Member of the City of Cincinnati Police Community Preventive Education Committee
- Member of the FBI & US Attorney Office for Southern District of Ohio Multi-Cultural Advisory Council
- Hitting Coach for the 2017 Cincinnati Pirates of the Cincinnati Adult Baseball League
- Member of the Clippard Family YMCA Board of Directors
- Member of the Cincinnati Contract Compliance Advisory Council
- Commissioner of the Minority Development Finance Commission
- Coach for the Cincinnati Reds Rookie Success League
- Chair-Santa Maria Bienestar Annual Conference/Awards/Luncheon Committee
- Member of Shroder Paideia Academy LSDMC
- Finance Committee – Christ Church Cathedral
- Board of Directors of Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency
- Chair, CHCAA Human Resources Committee
- Chairman of the Hispanic Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
- Bienestar Advisory Committee (Latino Affairs)
- Drop-in Center volunteer
- Co-chair Cincinnati Public School Maintenance Task Force (Bill Sykes, SB)
- Board member of Ohio LULAC
- Board Member of the Hamilton County Mental Health Board
- Member of the United Way Finance Committee
- Chairman of the Hispanic Republican Party Hamilton
- Su Casa Annual Awards/Dinner Committee
- Board Member of the Head Start/Early Childhood Education Policy Committee
- Pro bono translator in Northern Kentucky and Ohio Courts
- Co-chair of Council at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall St – New York City
- Commissioner of the Minority Development Finance Committee
- Guest Lecturer at ITT College Economics Class

- Guest Speaker at University of Cincinnati Hispanic Week Celebration
- Guest Speaker at Central State University Hispanic Week Celebration
- Several speaking engagements to include but not limited to the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Postal Service Bulk Mailing Development
- Served as panelist at Christ Church Cathedral (w/Secretary of State Ken Blackwell at the University of Northern Kentucky and at the Underground Railroad Museum
- Volunteer instructor for the Vita Program for the IRS Cincinnati
- Member of the ILT & LSDMC Robert Padeia Academy
- Cooked for seniors in the Senior Home Program known today as Mercy Health Partners
- Sponsored the Boy Scout Programs at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall St., New York
- Active in local PTA as President in New York
- Brooklyn Lions Club and Crown Heights Jaycees
- Founding member and first Chairman of the East Flatbush Friends of Education

EDUCATION – Holds a BA in Accounting (Union Institute and University)

AWARDS

Inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame on October 13, 2011; The National Football Hispanic Leadership Award 2014; LULAC Cincinnati Founding Member Recognition Award 2014; The Bridges for a Just Community Greater Cincinnati Distinguished Service Award; The YMCA Achievers Awards for Excellence 2012; The Cincinnati Educational John Pepper Award; 2011 African American Chamber Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Recognition Award; 2010 Su Casa Lifetime Service Award; 2010 Cincinnati USA Hispanic Chamber Community Award; National Association of Social Workers State of Ohio Chapter Public Citizen of the Year Award 2009; National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter Region VI Public Citizen Award 2009; The Santamaria Community Services Sister Margarita Brewer Hope Award; The 2007 LULAC Community Award; Distinguished Hispanic Ohio by OHCHLA with recognition by the Governor and Legislative branch; HCC 2004 Hispanic Advocate of the Year, Hispanic Chamber of Greater Cincinnati; Outstanding Service Award from the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board; USA Founding Member Recognition Award Postal Services “Heritage and Horizons on the African Legacy”; Outstanding Senior Volunteers by Medical Mutual; The Challenges of the 21st Century; Meyer Levin JHS 285 and East Flatbush Friends of Education outstanding services in the community; 67th PCT Senior Citizen Center Service Award; The Dedicators, Inc. for service in the community with actor John Amos; Lions Club Family Award; The Community School Superintendent, District 18 Award in Brooklyn, NY; Holds the Commission of Colonel on the Staff of the Governor of Kentucky in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonel.

While living in Panama, received several honorariums from the National Guard (PUMA) under Torrijos/Martinez leadership at the Tocumen Garrison.

I received many letters and certificates for my service in the community