

Media Contacts:
Andrea Link
andrealink@comcast.net

Ande Bloom
Ande.bloom@asfhg.org

Equity in Education Trailblazer Dr. Ruth J. Simmons Named 2021 Humanitarian of the Year by Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Houston-Galveston

HOUSTON – (**August 5, 2021**) – Prairie View A&M University President **Dr. Ruth J. Simmons**, a tireless champion of equity in higher education over her almost 50-year career, will receive the [Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Houston-Galveston \(ASFHG\)](#) Humanitarian of the Year award at the organization's annual Celebration of Service Monday, September 20, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Junior League in Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane.

"Dr. Simmons is truly a trailblazer for her work championing equity in higher education, advancing the cause of historically Black colleges and universities, and encouraging an unflinching look into institutional ties to slavery. She has changed the landscape for young people, not just in our city but all over the country," said Schweitzer Fellowship Board Chair **Dr. Andrea Link**, a Houston-based program and project management consultant who earned her medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine.

The ASFHG Fellows Program Houston-Galveston (www.asfhg.org) is part of **The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship** (<http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org/>) and one of 15 Schweitzer Fellowship programs throughout the U.S. and in Lambaréné, Gabon, at the site of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital. The Fellowship programs are modeled after the life example of pioneering physician-humanitarian and Nobel Peace Laureate **Dr. Albert Schweitzer**. Medical and graduate student Fellows in the Houston-Galveston area complete year-long service projects addressing the health needs of the community's most underserved populations, strengthening the capacity and programming of local agencies while learning the value, impact, and rewards of helping others.

"Over the past 12 years, the **Fellowship** has sponsored almost 300 Fellows who have provided more than 50,000 hours of service to address core health needs in Houston and Galveston," noted **Dr. Link**. The 2021 Fellows represent Baylor College of Medicine, Prairie View A&M University, UTHealth McGovern Medical School, UTHealth School of Public Health, UTHealth School of Dentistry, Texas Southern University, University of Houston Honors College, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, Texas A&M School of Public Health and UTMB Galveston School of Medicine.

An honors graduate of Phillis Wheatley High School in Houston, **Dr. Simmons** has been a pioneer of higher education throughout her illustrious career in academia. She attended Dillard University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in French, then went on to earn both her Masters and Doctorate degrees in Romance Languages from Harvard University. **Dr. Simmons** has brought her extraordinary skill set to colleges across the country: from starting the first engineering program at Smith College, where she was their first Black president, to serving in administrative roles at Princeton University and Spelman College. Her 11-year tenure as president of Brown University made

her not only the first Black president of an Ivy League institution but also one of the university's most effective and beloved administrators. In 2003, she established the University Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice, making Brown one of the first universities of its kind to initiate a comprehensive effort to address its institutional foundation in enslavement.

The luncheon is open to all community members. The **ASFHG** is a 501(c)(3) organization, and proceeds from the event support the ongoing efforts of the Fellowship to create positive changes in the health and wellness of those in need. Table sponsorships and tickets for the event are available. For registration and ticket information, go to the organization's webpage for the event: www.asfhg.org/cos2021, or contact Andrea Link, Board Chair at andrealink@comcast.net, or Program Coordinator Ande Bloom at ande.bloom@asfhg.org.
