

**Candidate Bio****Search for Dean of the College of Public Health and Human Sciences****LEIGH ANN SIMMONS**

Campus Visit: 21-22 October 2021

Dr. Leigh Ann Simmons (she/her) is Chair and Professor in the Department of Human Ecology, Director of the Health Equity Across the Lifespan (HEAL) Lab, and Co-Director of the Perinatal Origins of Disparities (POD) Center at the University of California, Davis. The overall aim of her research is to promote population health equity by reducing disparities in chronic disease risk factors among vulnerable, medically underserved, and historically minoritized populations using a life course lens. Her significant contributions have been in three main areas: (1) characterizing co-occurring chronic disease risk factors; (2) understanding the impact of early life exposures on later life chronic disease risk; and (3) designing and testing personalized behavioral and clinical interventions with an emphasis on innovative digital technology. To date she has published more than 70 peer-reviewed publications, and her research has been funded by the NIH, the USDA, the Veterans Health Administration, and the California Department of Health Care Services, among others.

Dr. Simmons holds a PhD in child and family development from the University of Georgia, a Master's degree in Family Therapy from MCP-Hahnemann University (now Drexel University), and an A.B. in Literature/Writing from the University of California, San Diego. She also served as a Health Disparities Scholar through the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (now NIMHD) from 2005-2010. Dr. Simmons has extensive federal public policy experience, having served as a Congressional Fellow on the Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee for the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA).