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Steve Simmons was born in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to Columbus when he was 8 years old. He is a proud product of the Columbus City Schools, having graduated from Whetstone High School in 1974. After high school Steve joined the US Navy for 5 years, where he worked in the aviation division as a jet mechanic. He served at 2 bases, Patuxent River in Maryland and Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was assigned to the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN-69 and was at sea for the remaining two years of his military service. He made port at Haifa, Israel and Naples, Italy and many other destinations. The highlight of this time was the meeting of Anwar Sadat, Menachem Begin and President Jimmy Carter in Israel. After Steve was discharged (honorably of course), he was employed as a bus mechanic for a company the school system used as a contracted provider of buses and drivers, then was hired by the Columbus City Schools a bus mechanic in 1982. Steve worked his way up the ladder in the department known as Fleet, first as the Supervisor of the Garage at 17th Avenue in 1992, then as Fleet Operations Supervisor where he served until asked by the COO Karin Riley to see if he could help the transportation office with the routing of students. Earlier in the year Phil Downs and Steve volunteered to help transportation with problems they were having with the "map" of the new routing system, Trapeze.

Steve worked with transportation the next summers ensuring the routing was completed on time for the students to get to school. He turned the task into a contest between routers to see who could accomplish the most work each day. They completed the task 2 weeks early. At that time, Steve was performing both the Operations supervisor and "project manager" positions simultaneously. Ms. Riley then asked Steve to take over the responsibilities of the transportation budget from the Transportation Director, Eric Pinkett. Steve was able to turn back over \$800,000.00 of the budget to the budget director. In 2006 Steve worked as Fleet Operations Supervisor, Transportation Project Manager and Transportation Radio Dispatcher. In January 2007, an incident occurred where a First Student bus driver was caught with a syringe of cocaine on his school bus. This resulted in the retirement of Mr. Pinkett and Steve was then asked to serve as Acting Director of Transportation and was appointed to Director of Transportation in early 2008.

Steve is currently the Director of Transportation for Columbus City Schools, the largest school district in the state of Ohio and the 26th largest district-owned fleet in the United States. Mr. Simmons was voted this March as the "William Rice Award of Excellence" winner for 2011-12, OAPT Transportation Director of the Year. Steve currently serves as Vice-Chairman on the City of Columbus Transportation and Pedestrian Commission, where he has served since 2008. He is a member of the COTA mobility board, which assists COTA with mobility options for the disabled. He is President of the Ohio Association of Pupil Transportation. He has also volunteered for 12 years as Ground Advisor for North Columbus Sports, a youth baseball organization serving over 1000 children each summer at Ridgeview Middle School. Steve drives a bus for a homeless ministry in Dayton, transporting the homeless from shelters to an organization called Target Dayton Ministries, which feeds and clothes the needy. His other hobbies are golf, golf and aviation then more golf.