

Elon Simms is an experienced and action-oriented professional with a demonstrated history of working in community, government, social service, higher education, and private sectors.

Currently, Simms is the Chief of Staff to Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. As Chief of Staff to the mayor of the 14th largest city in the United States, Elon is responsible for leading the mayor's cabinet and advancing the city's Equity Agenda.

Prior to joining Mayor Ginther, served Crane Group as Director of Community Philanthropy, and within a year, was named Vice President of Community Impact. In this role, Simms was responsible for the planning and oversight of the philanthropy program, which includes strategic community engagement, volunteerism, educational programs, board engagement, charitable contributions, DEI, external communications, and Crane Group's social impact investments.

He began his career at Franklin County Children Services as a Child Welfare Caseworker. He then joined The Ohio State University, serving as the Director of Field Education in the College of Social Work where he was also a graduate of the Leadership in Human Service Management Program. As director, he managed the student field practicums in non-profit organizations and maintained strategic partnerships with over 800 social service agencies and programs. Additionally, Elon also served as the director of community affairs for the City of Columbus where he was responsible for overseeing projects and initiatives of the Mayor's Office regarding constituent services, external affairs, and community relations.

Elon currently serves on the boards of Franklin County Children Services, Smart Columbus, Experience Columbus, The Columbus Sports Commission, The African American Leadership Academy, and is engaged in several community advisory councils, workgroups, and committees throughout central Ohio.

Elon earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Work and Master of Social Work degrees from The Ohio State University. He has also successfully completed the Young Americans Leadership Program at the Harvard Business School and is a Columbus Business First 40 Under 40 honoree.