Nicholas S. Simmons

(b)(6)

Work Experience

2019 – Present   STATE OF CONNECTICUT, OFFICE OF GOVERNOR NED LAMONT   HARTFORD,   CT

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Policy Advisor
Reporting directly to the Chief of Staff, Chief Operating Officer, and Governor Lamont I lead large inter-agency teams to craft and implement key priority policies for the Lamont Administration. My role requires the coordination and management of dozens of employees within the Governor's Office and across Connecticut state agencies to successfully implement projects, external partnerships, and policies with budgets combining in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Design, Lead, and Manage Large Teams to Execute Priority Policies and Initiatives for Governor Lamont:
- I designed and led inter-agency team from the Governor's office to overhaul the state's workforce development system. Vastly improving Connecticut's workforce development system has been one of Governor Lamont's top priorities in his first term. The work included:
  - Building, funding and staffing new state workforce office, designed to lead and coordinate Connecticut's entire workforce infrastructure.
  - Creation of new Connecticut state workforce board requiring the recruiting and appointing of top business, education, and workforce training officials.
  - Leading large group of state agencies, top employers, educators, and non-profits to formulate and execute a 12-month improvement plan for Connecticut's workforce pipeline.
  - Led the *CT Back to Work* initiative, a partnership with Indeed and workforce training companies to provide workforce training and job-placement services to tens of thousands of Connecticut residents during COVID-19 pandemic.

- Serve as lead from Governor's Office for reopening K-12 schools during the COVID-19 pandemic including leading large cross-agency teams, coordinating with the State Department of Education, State Department of Public Health and other state agencies on all aspects of reopening K-12 schools and remote learning since outset of Covid-19 in March, 2020. Including:
  - Designing of state guidelines, policies and budgets for school reopening.
  - Creation of one of nation's first weekly data trackers of districts offering fully in-person, hybrid, or remote learning models and tracking of positive infection cases reported among K-12 students and staff.
  - Standardizing K-12 reopening metrics and goals, and leading weekly cross-agency call with Chief Operating Officer and commissioners of Education and Public Health, to track progress on goals and discuss next step interventions.
  - Led Governor's Office briefings for Governor Lamont on weekly reopening progress and discussion of key policy decisions and next steps
  - Creation of a nation-leading data system to track monthly student attendance across all populations.
  - Crafting and deployment of over $250M of CARES Act money to support school reopening

- Crafted and led *The Everybody Learns Initiative,* a $64M state program to close the digital divide during COVID-19 pandemic. Led a team of more than ten across five agencies to coordinate logistics and funding for deploying 141,00 laptops, and 41,000 at-home internet connections to students across 220 school districts, and 160 free public WiFi hotspots across the state. Led team process to negotiate contracts with seven different internet service providers/
The Everybody Learns Initiative resulted in Connecticut being the first state in the nation to close its K-12 digital divide by providing a laptop and internet connection to every student who indicated a need.

(b)(6)

- Led design and financing proposal for public private partnership of $200M Data Science Center in Stamford, Connecticut and serve as Governor's representative on Stamford project design board.

- Led an inter-agency team to launch state public private partnership with AT&T to build the first 5G network on a commuter rail in America.

- Led Governor's Office team to recruit, and onboard hundreds of contact tracers during Covid-19, ultimately resulting in an operation of 1,000+ contact tracers.

- Led the launch of and serve as Chair of the State's 5G Council, an eight-member Council that directs agencies and municipalities on state 5G policy and guidelines.

- Developed plan and led inner-agency effort to design $11M community engagement program to fund large group of social workers in neediest districts to engage with families of chronically absent students to support their return to school and bridge to summer programming.

Oversee financial diligence processes, crafting of budgetary proposals, and implementation of funds combining to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Lead overall K-12, higher education, workforce and broadband policy formation for Governor Lamont within Governor's Office and help oversee policy formation across agencies.

Lead the writing and introduction of Governor's legislation on bills relating to K-12 education, higher education and broadband and manage the legislative process.

- In the 2021 Legisative session, I led a multi-agency policy process to write and introduce one of Governor Lamont's top priority Governor's bills – a largescale effort to drastically improve access to high-speed broadband across Connecticut and to create a new state office for broadband policy and operations.

Serve as a lead ambassador from the Governor's Office for K-12 education, higher education, workforce development and broadband to external parties such as the media, state legislators, municipalities, school districts, state teachers, superintendents, colleges and universities, internet service providers, advocate groups and non-profit organizations.

Summer 2018	**BRIDGEWATER ASSOCIATES**	**WESTPORT, CT**

Summer Senior Management Associate
- Accepted into group of 35 MBAs from +1,000 applications to the Core Management Team (~2% of the firm) responsible for managing entire company. Designed solution to better measure employee professional growth.

SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS   **HARLEM, NY**
Recognized as one of the highest performing charter school networks in the United States, 76% of students are from low-income families, 93% are children of color. Students perform in the top 1% in the state for math and top 2% for ELA, and all are admitted by random lottery.

2015 – 2016   **Acting Principal**
- Promoted to acting principal for a colleague on leave. As one of the youngest principals in the state, I oversaw all staff and operations at one of the highest performing middle schools in New York. Among all students in the state of New York, my middle school scored in the top 0.3% in Math and top 0.5% for English Language Arts.

- Overhauled teacher training program and parent outreach process resulting in improved attendance rates, student and parent engagement and academic outcomes for students
- Implemented new schedule that put school culture and celebration of students front-and-center resulting in increased rates of satisfaction and engagement among students, parents and teachers.

Assistant Principal

- Promoted to Promoted to Assistant Principal of a middle school with 40-person staff and +200 student body. As a member of the school leadership team, I was jointly responsible for management of all school operations and staff, while directly managing all school math teachers.

SUCCESS ACADEMY HARLEM WEST   **HARLEM, NY**

2012 – 2015   **Founding 7th Grade Math Teacher and Lead of Math Content**

- First 7th grade math teacher in history of the network, directly instructed 200+ students in addition to creation of curriculum and supporting new school design, scheduling, and processes.
- Over three years, my classes ranked as the 4th, 5th and 9th highest performing math classes in entire state of New York (out of 1,402), with +80% of students coming from low-income families and all admitted by random lottery.
- Selected as model of excellent instruction among all middle school math teachers and promoted to oversee 25 teachers in their math instruction across seven schools
- I published two editorials in the Wall Street Journal about educational equity and selected as unique blogger about education for Huffington Post. The articles shared my experience as a teacher and advocating for better educational policy for students.

2011 – 2012 **UBS INVESTMENT BANK – SALES AND TRADING**   **STAMFORD, CT**
             Foreign Exchange Analyst

- Booked, reviewed and recommended trades in volumes worth $100M. Passed the Series 7 and 63 exams. Left position to pursue a passion for delivering better education to underserved public school students.

Education

2016 – 2019 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY, JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT**   **CAMBRIDGE, MA**
            HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL
            Master of Business Administration + Master of Public Policy
            Rubenstein Fellow, and Bill George Fellow at the Harvard Center for Public Leadership.

2007 – 2011 **YALE UNIVERSITY**   **NEW HAVEN, CT**
            Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Co-founded and served as CFO of NGO that trained and sent students to teach in villages throughout Africa. Member of the Varsity Football Team.

Other Leadership Activities

2013 – 2018 **SUCCESS ACADEMY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE**
            Founder and President

- Founded and served as president for 100-member committee that fundraises and raises awareness for the Success Academy schools and educational equity. The committee has hosted over 30 events and raised over $200k in scholarship funds.

Nicholas S. Simmons

(b)(6)

2014 – 2016 CONNECTICUT STATE REPRESENTATIVE CAROLINE SIMMONS   **STAMFORD, CT**
Campaign Manager and Strategist
- Served in variety of roles including strategist and acting campaign manager for the youngest female representative in the Connecticut General Assembly.
- The only Democrat in 2014 to defeat an incumbent Republican in Connecticut
- Advise and assist the Representative with crafting policy and political strategy while in office.

Other

Cycled 1,200 miles from Canada to Mexico, raising over $20k in college scholarship funds for my students. Two-time All-American high school wrestler. Avid Settlers of Catan player, Star Wars fan, and West Wing episode re-watcher.