

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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April 14, 2005

CLERK: Mr. President, the Education Committee reports on the appointment of Joyce Simmons to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. (Legislative Journal page 1172.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on the confirmation report by the Education Committee.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The Education Committee recommends the confirmation of Dr. Joyce Simmons to the Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education. Dr. Simmons is a new appointment to the commission. Her term of service would be for nearly six years, extending from February 23 of this year through January 1 of 2011. I'll remind you that the Postsecondary...the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education is vested with the authority for the coordination of public postsecondary educational institutions. The commission consists of 11 members, residents of the state or the districts for which appointed. They're appointed by the Governor with the approval of the majority of the Legislature. Six of the members are chosen from six districts, and five are chosen at large. Dr. Simmons hails from Valentine, Nebraska. She has operated a private orthodontics practice in Valentine for the past 17 years. Dr. Simmons received her degree, dentistry degree, from the UNMC College of Dentistry, and also holds a master of science degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and a bachelor of arts degree from Chadron State College. She has been an active member of several boards and organizations in her community, including serving as mayor of the city of Valentine from 2000 to 2002. She's also been active in the Sandhills Area Community Foundation, the Valentine Rotary Club, the Valentine Arts Council, the Nebraska Humanities Council, as well as several other organizations. Dr. Simmons is filling a vacancy caused by the death of at-large Commissioner Helen Morten. Ms. Morten dedicated a great deal of her time and effort to the Coordinating Commission and certainly will be missed. However, the commission seems to have found a very qualified replacement in Dr. Simmons. With that, I'll close by encouraging your support for the confirmation of Dr. Joyce Simmons to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary