

# Campbellsville University, Simmons form partnership

By Peter Smith

[psmith@courier-journal.com](mailto:psmith@courier-journal.com)

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Simmons College of Kentucky and Campbellsville University agreed yesterday to a long-term partnership that will provide for faculty and student exchanges and other cooperative work.

The presidents of the two schools called the venture an effort to bridge past racial divisions.

Simmons is a historically black Bible college based in Louisville, affiliated with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Campbellsville is a historically white liberal arts college based in Taylor County; it is connected with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the state affiliate of the Southern Baptists.

"We think both institutions can be strengthened," said Campbellsville President Michael Carter. "You take a rural, south-central Kentucky institution and an urban black institution, there's a lot we can learn from one another."

The Rev. Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons, said the agreement "makes a statement to the world about our faith."

He said that while the Southern Baptist Convention officially renounced its history of racism in 1995, "many times the documents we sign become mere sentimentality, and they're only substantive when we do substantive things like collaborating for the betterment of all people."

The document marking the partnership envisions cooperation on worship and ministry activities. Simmons, on Dumesnil Street, has about 100 students. Campbellsville has an enrollment of 2,197 and also has a Louisville branch.