



Yasmen Simonian

“If you are educated, it affects everything. You make sound choices. You can educate your kids, you can educate anyone around, you can find employment and improve your lives. It’s powerful.”

Yasmen Simonian emigrated from Iran with her parents in 1967. She attended the University of Utah for her bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees in medical technology. She obtained a position as a faculty member at Weber State College in 1981. Early in her career she sought opportunities to be involved in the campus community, serving on numerous committees.

Yesmen has worked to expand distance education at Weber State and to recruit more diverse students and faculty in health professions. In 2008, she became the Dean of the Dumke College of Health Professions. She has been a champion for her students and her college, advocating for more equitable salaries, fundraising for programs and technology, and encouraging undergraduate research and community service.

In 2005, Yasmen became the first woman from Weber to be awarded the U.S. Professor of the Year award for Utah from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement of Support and Education. Yasmen also became the first woman to receive the Presidential Distinguished Professor Award at Weber in 2007.