

Leseley Simpson named ICC's Outstanding Alumna 2010



Leseley Simpson was born in Cherryvale, Kansas, the daughter of Wesley and Dorothy Adey. She graduated from Cherryvale High School and attended ICC in 1956-58. She continued her education at Pittsburg State University and received her Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1960. A life-long learner, she went back to school and earned her Master's Degree in Education from PSU in 1991.

As a newly trained teacher, Leseley's first teaching position was in her hometown of Cherryvale. She taught 2nd grade for a year there before seeking the adventure that a west coast job could offer. She accepted an elementary school teaching position in San Bernardino, CA, where she remained until 1977. During her time in California her adventurous spirit prevailed and she took a year's leave of absence to teach second grade at an Army post in Landstuhl, Germany, for the Department of Defense.

Simpson returned to Kansas in 1977 to teach in Independence for USD 446. Her Independence career afforded her the opportunity to teach at Washington, Lincoln and Eisenhower Elementary School buildings. She remained at Eisenhower until her retirement in 1996 after teaching for a total of 35 years.

While in San Bernardino, she was active as an actress, singer and dancer with the San Bernardino Civic Light Opera. Over her career there she performed in over 30 musicals before returning to Independence taking an active role in Neewollah and college stage productions.

She is a member of the Inge Steering Committee and has volunteered for the William Inge Theatre Festival for the last 28th years serving as the head of the Daytime Events for the last several years. She is president of the Independence Children's Summer Theatre, is an active member of PEO Chapter DA and is currently serving as Chapter President.

Simpson has been a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador for the last 10 years. She served on several Queen Neelah Committees for Neewollah and this past year was the co-chair of the Queen's Scrapbook Committee. She is a member of the First United Methodist Church where she sings in the choir and serves on several church committees. Her teaching career continues into her retirement as she continues as an instructor Senior Aerobics at Mercy Health for Life.

Leseley resides in Independence with her husband, Gary. The Simpsons will celebrate their 40th anniversary this year.