For the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education


Presented by Dr. Tom Moore, Vice President for Academic Affairs And Dean of the Faculty Winthrop University August 2008
For several years now, in keeping with our legislative mandate, Winthrop has been developing a distinctive approach to higher learning ‘as the progress of the times may require.’

Consequently, we have received numerous and repeated third-party recognitions of Winthrop as being among America’s ‘best values’ in higher education.
The Winthrop Experience: 
*Live. Learn. Lead.*

• ‘Development of the whole person’ is a fundamental value at Winthrop, emphasized in the residence hall setting as well as in classrooms. ("LIVE.")

• Winthrop has developed a distinctive set foundational courses for all students, emphasizing the kind of deep learning that forms a solid foundation for entering strong, nationally accredited major programs of study. ("LEARN.")

• Winthrop has launched its elective ‘Distinction in Leadership,’ which can provide value added to any degree ("LEAD.")
An all-campus initiative:

Winthrop is one of only 18 institutions in the U.S. chosen to lead an AAC&U initiative to identify ways that higher education can instill five Core Commitments throughout the learning process:

- Striving for excellence
- Personal and academic integrity
- Valuing the perspectives of others
- Contributing to the larger community
- Educating for moral and ethical reasoning
BENEFITS OF ASC APPROACH

| 1. Increased retention/graduation | 4. Specialized programming |
| 2. Improved grades                | 5. Some classes held in the halls |
| 3. Regular interaction with faculty, in and out of the classroom | 6. Opportunities for increased interaction with peers/classmates |
Winthrop continues to promote to students, parents and the public the purpose and rigor embedded in Winthrop’s approach to foundational academic experiences by referring to the courses that collectively form the base upon which later deeper learning and academic progress occur as the “Touchstones of the Winthrop Experience.” These include:

- **ACAD101 – Principles of the Learning Academy**
- **WRIT101 -- College-level Expository Writing**
- **HMXP102 – The Human Experience: Who Am I?**
- **CRTW – Critical Reading, Thinking and Writing**
Why Winthrop’s ‘Touchstone’ courses are an essential part of the Winthrop Experience and a defining characteristic of a Winthrop degree:

Winthrop’s foundational ‘Touchstone’ courses help students succeed in meeting both the present challenges of higher learning and the unknowable challenges they will encounter as professionals and citizens in a global society.
Through these courses, students develop **enduring capacities for gathering key information from multi-disciplinary perspectives**, **thinking critically** about it in an **inter-disciplinary way**, and **acting upon** it in a **timely manner** – the **touchstones for lifelong learning and leadership**, and the **very skills that are deemed essential for success in a fast-changing world**.

In the process, students also think about **the kind of person they want to be** and how they want to relate to others and to the world around them.

This is the **distinctive Winthrop Experience**.
Winthrop and the Collegiate Learning Assessment:

Goal: Measure ‘value-added’ role of higher education in areas such as critical thinking, analytical reasoning, problem-solving and written communication.

Winthrop will continue the national Collegiate Learning Assessment program to document student outcomes by re-testing students who participated in 2006 testing as freshmen and sophomore testing in 2007 during senior-year (2009) to measure outcomes and deepening of learning at each stage of the Winthrop Experience.
The Winthrop Experience:
Live. Learn. Lead.

Winthrop and the Collegiate Learning Assessment (continued):

- Winthrop will use findings from participation in the Collegiate Learning Assessment project, as well as results from our long-term participation in the National Survey on Student Engagement*, to assess, refine and improve programs at each stage of the learning process.

* Compared to students at national peer institutions, Winthrop students continue to report a higher level of engaged experiences in five key areas of effective educational practice leading to later life success: active and collaborative learning; student-faculty interactions; level of academic challenge; enriching educational experiences, and a supportive campus environment.

**INBRE: The IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence:**

- Winthrop and its INBRE partner institutions continue to seek additional collaborative opportunities to foster growth in and success among undergraduates in the biomedical field, and look for relationships with other institutions doing similar work.

- Winthrop is seeking McNair grant support to encourage students from under-represented populations toward a Ph.D. track in sciences.
The Winthrop Experience:
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**UPDATES:**

- In Fall 2007, the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Geography took delivery of two new mass spectrometers that were purchased through a Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grant for $282,309 from the National Science Foundation. Winthrop was one of 14 schools nationwide competitively selected for funding based upon peer review panel evaluations of the 75 proposals submitted this year by schools with B.S. and M.S. chemistry and biochemistry programs. Winthrop undergraduate students will now have hands-on research experiences not normally obtained until graduate school.
The Winthrop Experience: **Live. Learn. Lead.**

**Leadership at Winthrop:**

- The new Leadership Studies director has identified students from the 2007 leadership introduction course who want to pursue a formal “Distinction in Leadership” as part of their degrees, and will inaugurate the program in Fall 2008.

- The new director of the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards will continue to work with the campus community to identify and work with academically gifted students, faculty and staff members who are interested in pursuing nationally competitive scholarships, grants and fellowships.
Since last year at this time, two new academic buildings have been completed:

The Lois Rhame West Health, Physical Education and Wellness Center

Owens Hall, a general-use classroom building infused with ‘smart’ technology
In summary, Winthrop is delivering all key academic and personal development concepts of the distinctive Winthrop Experience with a continuing emphasis on quality and value.

In addition:

Winthrop this summer is incorporating into formal campus environs over 15 acres of property acquired for westward expansion of its main campus – the largest property acquisition in over half a century.

Winthrop this year also has begun construction progress on two major new facilities in the new heart of campus – Carroll Hall, a new part of our College of Business complex, and a new Campus Center – affirming long-envisioned capacity to deliver the Winthrop Experience at an even higher level of quality.
A message from Winthrop President Anthony DiGiorgio to CHE colleagues:

While previous obligations would not allow me to deliver this presentation in person, I want to share what I have identified as keys to Winthrop’s success in recent years, as I believe these are also keys to future higher education progress for South Carolina:

- **Flexibility** rather than centralized bureaucratic governance, allowing Winthrop **to be market-wise, vision-driven and values-centered**.
- Dedication to **national program accreditation** that encourages continuous quality improvement as the norm at Winthrop.
- **People who value excellence** – trustees, faculty and staff who go the extra mile for Winthrop and its students – **and deserve recognition** for the dedication and creativity they bring to their respective responsibilities each day.
- **A sense of place and public purpose** as an institutional citizen of the region, state, nation and world that Winthrop serves by developing human potential.

From my 20-year perspective in S.C., it is imperative that current public policy initiatives first do no harm to these keys to progress, but rather martial support to the synergy they can continue to create for the public good.
Looking Ahead: Works in Progress

• Programs
• Campus Development
Building on several years’ third-party recognitions of Winthrop as being among America’s ‘best values’ in higher education,

Winthrop is now ready to grow!
Planning Winthrop’s ‘Next Horizons’:

Winthrop’s strategic directions over the next few years will be:

-- to recruit a **student body** of 7,500 students while:
  • **preserving the nature, character and quality of Winthrop**
  • **reaching an SAT average of 1,100**
  • **continuing Winthrop’s commitment to being inclusive** (African-American enrollment is currently 27 percent)
  • **preserving high in-state enrollment (no less than 75 percent)**

-- to create **residential, academic and auxiliary programs and facilities** and make other adjustments along the way as needed to retain our distinctive identity while facilitating incremental growth.

Living at Winthrop
Coming in 2008-2009:

- Sophomore Learning for Life – All halls
- Sophomore Honors – All halls

Fall ’08: All Floors to be Academic Success Communities!

PLUS:
- Education Floor - Phelps and Thomson
- Business Floor - Courtyard, Thomson
- Service Learning Floor - Courtyard, Thomson
- Science & Math Floor - Courtyard, Phelps, Thomson
The Winthrop Experience:
Live. Learn. Lead.

Learning at Winthrop
Looking Ahead: Examples of ‘personalization’ and professionalization’ warranting further exploration:

• Winthrop already has strong majors with solid national accreditations. To add market value to that foundation of excellence, Winthrop is exploring additional opportunities for students to ‘personalize’ their academic program:
  
  • ‘Design Your Own’ major
  
  • Joint/double majors
  
  • Five-year programs leading to a master’s degree
  
  • Ability to pair programs with a business minor to broaden professional opportunities
  
  • Personalized programming for undeclared majors

Leading at Winthrop
Distinction in Leadership Update

• Through an introductory Spring 2008 class, approximately 50 students have indicated interest in pursuing a rigorous path to having their Winthrop diploma note their specific degree earned, followed by the words, “with a Distinction in Leadership.” This distinction can be listed on their resumes as well, bringing additional recognition to Winthrop among employers, benefitting all alumni.

• Earlier in the year, Winthrop created a special advisory board of Southeastern business and civic leaders, and has inaugurated a Leadership lecture series.
The Next Horizons for The Winthrop Experience: 
*Live. Learn. Lead.*

Next: 
Campus Development Update
TILLMAN HALL

- Current Uses: Administrative Offices
- Future Projected Use: Same
- Timeline: Roof replacement and window rehab underway, electrical/HVAC to come. Completion expected: 2008 or early 2009
**Major Projects:**

1. West Center (LRW)
2. Campus Center
3. Owens Hall (OH)
4. Roddye-McLaurin
5. Sculpture Garden
Projected Future Use: Bookstore, food service, meeting and office space for student organizations
Timeline: Construction to be completed 2009
Carroll Hall

with Carroll Capital Markets Training and Trading Center
Current Use: 580,000 volumes and volume-equivalents; Government documents; Archives and special collections; Dacus Library Online (DOL)

- Projected Future Use: Demolition, due to lack of technological adaptivity and unsolvable moisture problems in 40-year-old structure’s subterranean level

- Timeline: TBA

- Funding Source: $500,000 from institutional bonds
Winthrop’s Priority Current Unfunded Academic Building Capital Need:

A 21st century library and information technology center, to be used by all students regardless of major

Estimated Cost:

$45 Million
New Winthrop Library

Center Campus View
New Winthrop Library:

…to meet needs of 21st century students and complete new heart of campus

Request for next bond bill: $45 million
Winthrop: Ready to set course toward its next horizons

What are the obstacles to Winthrop reaching its next horizons?
Winthrop University
Revenues 2006-07: Declining state support

- Student Tuition and Fees: 47%
- Contracts and Grants: 17%
- Auxiliary Enterprises: 10%
- Other: 6%
- Appropriations: 20%
Effect of declining state support

Winthrop University Projected Revenues 2009

- Student Tuition and Fees: 48%
- Contracts and Grants: 16%
- Auxiliary Enterprises: 10%
- Other: 8%
- Appropriations: 18%
Winthrop-specific budget requests

OPERATING FUNDING REQUEST:

1. **Budget Restoration:** In recognition of Winthrop’s record of continuing high in-state enrollment, its inclusiveness, its institutional investment in educational facilities needs, and its high performance quality and accountability, Winthrop requests a recurring line-item equalization appropriation returning Winthrop’s annual state operating support to the level of 2000-2001* ($25,404,503,) with adjustment for cumulative annual inflation from 2001-2009: $30,000,000.

* Institutions that already have returned to or exceeded 2000-2001 appropriation levels through recurring line-item general revenue appropriations include: Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, USC-Beaufort, USC-Upstate.
Winthrop-specific budget requests

OPERATING FUNDING REQUEST (cont.)

2. Research Science Pipeline Equipment Plan – To build on Winthrop’s exceptional success in developing undergraduate expertise in the sciences, as encouraged by state leaders, Winthrop requests support for amortization of investments in equipment strengthening the range of hands-on laboratory experiences for students with potential for advancement to graduate and doctoral level work: $1.5 million.

CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST:

In summary: Winthrop progress has been aligned to ‘higher purposes’

2002-2003: Consensus was emerging around the following statement of shared purposes for public higher education in South Carolina:

Higher education will be recognized and supported as the engine for realizing South Carolina’s ambitions for human and economic development so that all citizens can take advantage of the opportunities that the 21st century has to offer. Progress has been/will be marked by growth in the following areas, known as “higher purposes”:

-- Creating a well-educated citizenry
-- Raising the standard of living of South Carolinians
-- Improving the quality of life
-- Meeting changing workforce needs
-- Creating economic development opportunities
-- Positioning the state to be competitive in a global economy
-- Developing a new generation of public and private sector leaders
Despite state funding decline, **Winthrop has kept faith with its state responsibility** to be a ‘first-class institution of higher education,’ providing programs and features “as the progress of the times may require” to achieve those ‘higher purposes.’

Winthrop’s plans have emphasized:

- **National caliber quality/value to enhance SC competitiveness**
- **Baccalaureate degree attainment for South Carolina residents to improve per capita income**
- **Working with public schools to build college eligibility and emphasize science/technology**
- **Supporting economic development objectives of the region**
- **Increasing opportunities for formal recognition of leadership preparation.**

Because of movement to special earmarks of public funding and now another state revenue decline, **tuition and donor resources** – along with a firm commitment to maintaining quality and value – have had to be utilized to make this possible.
Public policy needs for higher education success in S.C. in the 21st century:

• Consensus on broad goals for the state, toward which higher education (among others) can provide momentum collectively.

• Flexibility for institutional leadership to set the course for how each will contribute to that momentum in keeping with their respective missions and identities, as well as regional differences.

• Recognition that all sectors have roles of equivalent importance to play in building state progress.

• Investment in institutions to support their delivery of educational services to South Carolinians, both through predictable operating appropriations and capital support.

• Investment in need-based as well as merit-based aid to broaden access.

• Investment in key statewide collaborative resources/services, e.g., PASCAL, student immigration status verifications.
Winthrop’s plan for its ‘Next Horizons’ remains consistent with its values, its mission as a public university and its obligation to evolve, in the words of state law, ‘... as the progress of the times may require.’

It is in a flexible public policy environment that Winthrop can continue to deliver this nationally recognized quality and value to its students and to the State of South Carolina.
The Winthrop Experience:

*Live. Learn. Lead.*

Thank you for your continuing service to the State of South Carolina