



April 2024

BOARD ACTION

[Trustees Vote Unanimously to Extend Serna's Contract](#)



The [Board of Trustees](#) gave [President Edward Serna '02](#) a five-year extension on his contract at the April 25 quarterly meeting. The contract extends from July 1, 2024, until it expires on June 30, 2029. Board Chair Glenn McCall said board members also voted unanimously to give Serna a rating of exceeds expectations due to the university's achievements during his more than a year and a half at the helm. The contract extension will be added to Serna's current contract so that salary and benefits will remain the same. Additional board action can be viewed [here](#).

COLLEGE CREATION

[Winthrop to Establish Honors College that Leads with Leadership](#)



The Board of Trustees recently gave university administrators the green light to launch by fall 2025 a leadership-focused [Honors College](#). With the aim of producing the next generation of leaders, the college would be a high-impact workforce talent incubator for the region. Winthrop currently has an Honors Program offered through its University College. Honors College students, regardless of their major, will hone their leadership acumen by participating in a required series of leadership development seminars, events, and mentorship sessions to include economic development and community leaders. Professor of Chemistry Nick Grosseohme, Professor of Marketing Cara Peters and Professor of Political Science Michael Lipscomb are the three finalists for the Honors College dean position.

COMMENCEMENT

[Cynthia Roddey '67 to Receive Honorary Doctorate; Deliver Undergraduate Commencement Address](#)



Sixty years after she first entered Winthrop College as its first African-American student, Cynthia Plair Roddey '67 will stand before the latest Winthrop graduates as the Commencement speaker for two undergraduate ceremonies on May 4 at the Winthrop Coliseum. President Serna will preside over the ceremonies and will present Roddey with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. The degree conferral comes as Winthrop commemorates the [60th anniversary of integration](#).

FACULTY AWARDS

Three Faculty to be Recognized at Commencement with Awards



Winthrop will celebrate its newest graduates during three upcoming Commencement ceremonies. Graduate Commencement will be held on May 2, at 7 p.m., to award 200 candidates their master's and specialist degrees. During the ceremony, the Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award will be given to [Kori Bloomquist](#), an associate professor in the Department of Social Work. On May 4, more than 580 undergraduates will receive their diplomas at the two undergraduate ceremonies. Winthrop will recognize [Assistant Professor of Human Nutrition Hope Lima](#) with the Outstanding Junior Professor Award during the 10 a.m. ceremony. Later that day, at 3 p.m., during the afternoon Undergraduate

Commencement ceremony, [Finance Professor Philip Gibson](#) will receive the Distinguished Professor Award.

RECORD-BREAKING FUNDRAISING

[Bleed Garnet, Give Gold Raises Over \\$275,000 in 24 Hours](#)



Bleed Garnet, Give Gold, Winthrop's fifth annual 24-hour giving event, raised more than \$275,000 from over 1,000 donors April 16-17. Your support was incredible as this crushes past Day of Giving totals. Thank you to everyone who displayed their Winthrop pride and supported current and future students. Your gift will make a difference! Still want to give? You can [make a secure gift online](#).

BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONS

[Men's Golf Secures Program's First Conference Championship](#)



The men's golf team captured the first Big South Conference Championship in program history on April 20. [Head Coach Kevin Pendley '98](#) became the first former Big South individual champion (1997, 1998) to win a team championship as a head coach. The Eagles now await their destination for the NCAA Regionals as the selection show will be Wednesday, May 1, at 2 p.m. on The Golf Channel.

WINTHROP ATHLETICS

[Annual Eagle Club Scholarship Auction Coming Up May 18](#)



The Eagle Club's Annual Scholarship Auction returns on Saturday, May 18, from 6-10 p.m. at the Winthrop Coliseum. The auction event has been a long-time favorite for Winthrop fans and alumni, and this year's event marks the return to the annual fundraising calendar for the first time since 2020, with the last in-person auction being in 2019, where over \$140,000 was

raised for student-athlete scholarships. The auction will include a silent auction, dinner and live auction. Tables for eight are available for \$1,000 and individual tickets are available for \$125. [Buy tickets and browse the online auction site.](#)

HOMECOMING & REUNION

[Homecoming and Reunion Weekend Set for Nov. 8-9](#)



It's not too early to mark your calendar for [Homecoming and Reunion Weekend](#), Nov. 8-9. If your class year ends in '4 and '9 you are celebrating a milestone reunion in November! More information about your class reunion will arrive to your mailbox and e-mail in August. Please make plans to join us and celebrate Winthrop!

[A Message from the Alumni Director](#)



As Commencement approaches and we prepare to welcome the newest cohort of alumni to the Alumni Association, this is a great time to remind alumni of all the resources available to

them from Winthrop. There are numerous ways to stay connected to Winthrop and your fellow alumni. See all of the [free resources](#), and please get involved with your alma mater! We hope to see you at an [upcoming event](#).

The mission of the Alumni Association is to honor the traditions and values of Winthrop University through the engagement of alumni worldwide.

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MORGAN-HOLCOMBE ALUMNI CENTER
STEWART HOUSE | ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA 29733

803/323-2145
www.winthrop.edu/alumni

