



July 2024

NEW PROGRAM LAUNCH

[Winthrop Elevate to Help Adults Complete Degrees](#)



Next month, Winthrop will officially begin to advertise a transformative, proven approach to adult and professional learning with a new Competency-Based Education (CBE) modality, entitled [Elevate*](#). This new modality will provide a unique and flexible approach to higher education that allows adults to advance through their coursework based on the ability to master a skill or competency at their own pace. The first degree program to be offered through this innovative modality is the Bachelor of Professional Studies which includes four concentration options: health informatics, organizational leadership, organizational operations, and community and health services. Applications will open Sept. 1 for a January program launch. Help spread the word about this exciting program! If you know adults who could benefit from this flexible and fast track to a college degree, please have them

e-mail elevate@winthrop.edu or call 803/323-2204.

*Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

ALUMNI CENTER DEDICATION

[Morgan-Holcombe Alumni Center Dedicated Last Month](#)



On June 27, [alumni, faculty, staff and friends gathered](#) to dedicate the new fountain and the Morgan-Holcombe Alumni Center at the Stewart House. More than 900 donors contributed to the Fountain Restoration Project to raise funds for a new fountain on the front lawn, and, thanks to the generosity of Betty Morgan Holcombe '56 and her husband, Milton, a vibrant, stand alone, alumni center is now housed at the Stewart House on Eden Terrace. The Holcombes' daughters, Kathryn and Karen, along with President Edward Serna '02 and Casey Ferri '09, president-elect of the Alumni Association Executive Board, were on hand to assist with the ribbon cutting and dedication. Alumni and friends are encouraged to visit the alumni center and view the Winthrop history and memorabilia displayed throughout.

BOARD ACTION

[Trustees Make History at June Board Meeting](#)



Trustees made history at the June 27 board meeting as they approved Winthrop’s first doctoral-level program, the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Leadership and Innovation, which will be offered through the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport and Human Sciences. The program still must be approved by the S.C. Commission on Higher Education and the university’s accreditation organization. Trustees also approved a \$119 million core operating budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The budget contains an [8-percent tuition decrease](#) for students and uses a conservative estimate of revenues that the university is expected to bring in for the new fiscal year which started July 1. As part of the budget, the state will provide Winthrop \$36 million in non-capital funds. [Additional action was taken](#) on approving new bachelor's degree offerings, setting meal plan rates, and more.

INSTITUTIONAL TRADITIONS

[Convocation to Usher in 139th Academic Year](#)



CONVOCAATION

[President Edward Serna '02](#) will preside over the Aug. 19 Convocation ceremony for new students, which will officially start the 139th academic year at Winthrop. The 11 a.m. ceremony will be held in the West Center. A Winthrop tradition, the ceremony is a way to welcome new and transfer students to the historic campus and into the Winthrop community of learners. Following the ceremony, President Serna and First Lady Lauren Serna will lead students toward the campus front lawn in the traditional Blue Line procession. A picnic lunch, open to the community, will take place on the lawn in front of Margaret Nance Hall. Fall classes will begin at 5 p.m. on Aug. 19.

POWER OF GIVING

[Gift Planning is a Powerful Way to Leave a Lasting Legacy](#)



August is Make-A-Will Month, a perfect time to reflect on the legacy you want to leave. We invite you to join the D.B. Johnson Society, named in honor of our visionary founding president, D.B. Johnson. The D.B. Johnson Society celebrates a dedicated group of alumni and friends who have included Winthrop in their estate plans. Learn more about [creating a lasting legacy through gift planning](#) and join us in perpetuating the mission of Winthrop. [By planning today](#), you can ensure that Winthrop continues to thrive for future generations.

SUMMER WINTHROP MAGAZINE

[Read the Latest Edition of the Winthrop Magazine](#)



Interested in knowing more about alumni who have worn the iconic Big Stuff costume? Do you want to learn more about the WinthropLIFE program and how it's preparing students for independent living? Want to recap how Winthrop honored the 60th anniversary of integration? Then the summer edition of the [Winthrop Magazine](#) is for you! [Read more](#) about these compelling stories, and more, in this fun and informative edition.

LATEST BOOK CLUB PICK

[Virtual Alumni Book Club Selects "Glory Be"](#)



The fourth reading period for the [Virtual Alumni Book Club](#) begins on Friday, Aug. 2 and runs through Friday, Oct. 4. Virtual Alumni Book Club members selected to read “Glory Be” by Danielle Arceneaux. “Glory Be” is the first book in a crime series that is set in the Louisiana bayou and introduces readers to amateur sleuth Glory Broussard. Read a summary and reviews about the book [here](#). [Join the free Virtual Alumni Book Club](#).

[A Message from the Alumni Director](#)



Alumni, we need you! The Alumni Association is recruiting alumni mentors! The [I'm Ready Alumni to Student Mentor Program](#) is gearing up for a successful second year, with alumni mentor recruitment beginning in early August. Designed to foster meaningful connections between our alumni and current students, *I'm Ready* offers

four guided micro-session topics focused on career and self-development. The fall program kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 12! Through mentoring, alumni can help bridge generational gaps, forge lifelong connections, and provide students with invaluable insights into the professional world. [Read more](#) to find out how you can help.

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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