



2023 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award Mr. David Vehaun '86

Each year, Winthrop University recognizes an alumnus for selfless dedication of time, energy and talent in service to this institution and others. The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award captures this high honor.

The 2023 recipient is Mr. David Vehaun '86, a dedicated public servant who has played a significant role in the revitalization of Rock Hill.

Mr. Vehaun earned a Bachelor of Science in government and public service with an emphasis in business administration from Winthrop, where he graduated with honors. His academic achievements were recognized with memberships in the Phi Kappa Phi and Book & Key Club honor societies. He earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with an emphasis on finance and budget administration in 1989. He graduated from the Advanced Government Finance Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business in 1991, where he attended on one of two MBIA National Scholarships.

Appointed as city manager for the city of Rock Hill in 2010, Mr. Vehaun has led the effort to establish Rock Hill as a model for transparency and strategic planning. Rock Hill has been recognized by the International City and County Managers Association with the Certificate of Excellence for the city's strategic planning efforts and its data-based decision-making that incorporates surveys into the overall performance efforts of the organization. Less than 30 governmental entities across the country have received this award.

The National Civic League has also recognized the city as an All-America City for its efforts to leverage citizen engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation to address local issues for community efforts including the Knowledge Park Action Plan, Miracle Park and Impact York County. The city has seen significant upgrades in its bond ratings from both Moody's and Standard & Poor's - improving Rock Hill's marketability in the national bond market.

During his time as city manager, Mr. Vehaun has overseen the emergence of the city's urban core as a major economic engine for the local economy. This area, which borders the Winthrop campus, has seen a dramatic revitalization and currently has more than \$600 million in public and private investment underway.

Prior to his appointment as city manager, Mr. Vehaun served as the city's assistant city manager and chief financial officer. In addition to his employment with the city, he worked in Winthrop's Department of Political Science for 20 years as an adjunct professor teaching classes in American Government, State and Local Government, Public Budgeting and Public Administration. He was spotlighted in the Summer 2007 edition of the Winthrop Magazine, "Improving the World, One Grad at a Time: Political Science Program Prepares Students for Lifelong Activism."



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Over the course of his career, Mr. Vehaun has served his profession in many ways. He is past-president of the Government Finance Officers Association of South Carolina and past-president of the Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association of South Carolina. He has also served as president of the South Carolina City and County Manager's Association. Mr. Vehaun has frequently moderated and spoken at many state, regional and national meetings on topics such as budgeting and long-range financial planning.

Mr. Vehaun and his wife, Kim Miller Vehaun '86, have volunteered in the community over the years including with Special Olympics, as co-chairs of the MLK Holiday Parade, the ACC Women's Basketball Tournament Host Committee, and with several churches in the community where Kim held minister of music positions, the Winthrop Baptist Campus Ministries, Rolling in Rock Hill and the Union Cycliste Internationale BMX World Championships. Mr. Vehaun previously served on the Rock Hill City Club Board of Governors, the Rock Hill Arts Council Combined Arts Fund, Habitat for Humanity and Winthrop's Alumni Giving Committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Vehaun reside in Rock Hill and their son, Jonathan, and his wife, Hannah, reside in Atlanta, Georgia.