

David McDonald '01
2019 Distinguished Service Alumni Award

This award recognizes a Winthrop alumna/us who significantly contributes to the quality of life in his or her community, the development of values and morals within others and serves as an outstanding citizen. Distinguished service may have been rendered with one's profession, church, charity, family or school on a national, state or local level. The recipient shall be a dedicated alumna/us who supports the growth and development of Winthrop through service to and/or support of established programs and objectives.

The 2019 recipient is David McDonald, a Greenville resident who earned his Bachelor of Arts in history (minor in secondary education) at Winthrop. Since then, he has worked as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and now assistant superintendent for school leadership for Greenville County Schools. He earned his M.Ed. at Concordia University as well as an instructional specialist degree and Ph.D. in education leadership and policy studies from the University of South Carolina.

He has served as a mentor to others in the field of education and has worked with S.C. Priority Schools. Among his accolades: the S.C. Middle Level Principal of the Year (2013), the S.C. Tau Kappa Epsilon Volunteer of the Year and Association for Middle Level Education National Educator of the Year (2017).

McDonald has remained active with his alma mater. He has served as a member of the Winthrop Young Alumni Council, the Winthrop Annual Fund Board, Winthrop Foundation Board of Directors and vice president of the Winthrop Alumni Association. He recently closed out his second term as president of the Alumni Association. During his presidential term, the Alumni Association launched five regional alumni chapters, created a legacy program to recognize Winthrop alumni and their family members who attend Winthrop, collaborated with campus partners to offer Winthrop College apparel during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, and continued partnership with Winthrop Athletics to host events surrounding Winthrop sports and for athletic alumni.

He also serves as a Winthrop Alumni Admissions Volunteer (WAAV) and has served on the Homecoming planning committee. He delivered the 2011 Convocation keynote address, and he continues to speak for various Winthrop programs and presentations. McDonald received the Winthrop Alumni Association Young Alumni Award in 2008.

McDonald also stays active within his community. He is a board member for the Thieson Family YMCA; past president of the South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education; board member of the South Carolina Administrators Association; member of Rotary International; grand province advisor for Tau Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity, Inc.; and member of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform Executive Board, among others.