



YEAR IN
REVIEW

2021 / 2022



WINTHROP
UNIVERSITY

*Richard W. Riley
College of Education*



DEAN'S WELCOME

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth Costner'.

Dr. Beth Greene Costner
Dean, Richard W. Riley College of
Education

With a dedicated staff, passionate faculty, and superb student body, the Richard W. Riley College of Education at Winthrop University continues to excel in our work while making an impact in our community and beyond. We appreciate your past involvement and hope you will find ways to continue to engage with us as we move together to reach new heights and challenge new goals.

For the college and university, 2022 was a year of new beginnings. In July 2022, as Dr. Erin Hamel and I began settling into our new roles and expectations, we set an intention for the college to re-engage and reconnect. The past several years had been hard on all of us in the college, and we wanted to identify ways that individuals could reignite passions for their work; explore new areas of study; commit to personal goals; and simply spend time together once again. Viruses continue to limit our interactions at times while new technologies allow us to work from anywhere, but connecting (even in a virtual space) with a student, colleague, friend, and partner is important in fueling the energy we need to face each challenge with a spirit of hope. As a friend, alum, partner, or colleague, we challenge you to find ways to re-engage and reconnect.

Each year, the college selects a book for faculty and staff to read together. We then have book clubs and discussion groups to share our impressions, concerns, and questions with others. We also use this as an opportunity to spend some quality time with our colleagues in a more informal work setting. We would like to expand this project to include our friends and partners. Consider joining us by reading Jon Gordon's "The Energy Bus" and discuss with others how the 10 rules can impact your approach to work and life. Watch our social media platforms for discussion topics and thoughts. Talk to a staff member in the community. Even consider forming a reading group among your networks. We would enjoy having you be part of this effort.

We need your support to accomplish our goals and aspirations. The COE faculty and staff are amazing; however, we cannot provide the quality educational experiences for our students without friends and partners like you. Read about some of the wonderful accomplishments and consider how you can sustain or create a connection with us.

On behalf of the entire team here in Winthrop's College of Education, I wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with promise and hope. May your new year be bright and full of exciting adventures.

Evelyn Barrales, B.S. Human Development & Family Studies

"My biggest inspiration is my parents, who have not only provided me with the opportunity to chase my dreams but also continuously modeled that I can accomplish anything through hard work and dedication," shared senior human development & family studies major Evelyn Barrales.

Unsure of what path to take as a high school senior, Evelyn has found her stride with her many roles from COE Ambassador, to co-director of CONNECT Orientation for the TRiO Achievers Program, and Ronald E. McNair Scholar. This fall, Evelyn represented HDFS on a national level with her McNair research titled: "Cultural Influences on Gender Identity Development Among Mexican American Women Living in Multigenerational Households" was accepted as a poster session at this year's NCFR conference in Minneapolis, in addition to receiving the NCFR Student Access Grant.



Will Douglas, M.A.T. Secondary Biology



Science teaching is in Will Douglas's genes. His mother, a teacher at Ruby Elementary in Chesterfield County, first inspired his plans to be a teacher and specifically to teach science. Having matched with Winthrop's Teaching Fellows program, Will came to Winthrop as a biology major with a minor in educational studies from Chesterfield, South Carolina, where his father was mayor. Here, his path led him to pursue the accelerated M.A.T. degree from which he plans to graduate in May 2023 with certification in secondary biology.

Active across campus, Will has participated in the Winthrop Initiative for STEM Educators (WISE) and Teaching Fellows programs. He has served as a tutor for the Academic Success Center and worked with the SEA-GENES lab exploring new and recently discovered viruses. Will has also served as a volunteer in the community for groups such as Pilgrims' Inn.

Will recognized Ms. Cassandra Bell and Drs. Victoria Frost, Anita McCulloch, Lauren Brasington, Jason Hurlbert, and David Vawter for the influence they have had on his time at Winthrop. Will is having an impact on students as well with one student sharing, "Mr. Douglas, you honestly help me so much with learning science--like you make it fun, and I just get it."

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES



"I so enjoy teaching and advising students in this program! Students are taking a new course on mentoring high school students and exploring various community organizations for internship opportunities. I am engaging more with the Rock Hill community due to my students' career pursuits...that is pretty awesome. Directing this program has widened my view of the multitude of organizations that educate adults and children in our region."

-- Kimberly Oxley, program director

The educational studies major made its debut in fall 2020. This innovative program is designed to provide a flexible pathway for students interested in serving in education settings that do not require teacher certification such as community programs, family and child associations, and training in the corporate world. All students take a set of core classes relative to working with children and communities, and can select one or more concentrations in the areas of: early childhood education, elementary education, middle level English language arts, middle level mathematics, middle level science, middle level social studies, special education, or physical education teacher education. As a program that offers flexibility and leads to multiple career pathways, educational studies is emerging as one of our fastest growing programs in the College of Education. To learn more, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/26tywsbk>

"My motivation for choosing ed. studies simply amounts to one word: opportunity. Opportunity for professional and personal expansion. Opportunity to use my talents in a multitude of educational environments, not just public schools. My interests are varied, and the ed. studies program allowed me to explore them. Consequently, I've become significantly more aware of my applicable skills and intentions for my career. Also, my minor in community-based learning has provided me with even more insight into just how vast the field of education actually is."

-- Quest Morris, fall 2021 graduate of the educational studies program

"I love the educational studies program because it has given me the choice to go straight into the Master of Arts in Teaching accelerated program. After switching my major from history during my junior year, the ed. studies major gave me the ability to graduate on time rather than a year late, while also giving me a path to graduate school."

-- Kaley McMillan, senior educational studies major

"It has been so exciting seeing how educational studies meets the needs of a variety of students. This major provides flexibility and opportunity to make an educational impact in a wide variety of settings outside a traditional classroom. I look forward to seeing what the differences our graduates make after graduation!"

-- Bettie Parsons Barger, department chair

MACFEAT EARLY CHILDHOOD LABORATORY SCHOOL

Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School continues to meet the highest standards in early childhood education. As the oldest continuously operating laboratory school in the country, this nationally accredited program exemplifies the highest standards in early childhood education. On any given day, observers will find preschool and kindergarten-aged children joyfully learning under the guidance of master teachers in environments and classrooms intentionally designed with state-of-the-art materials and equipment. The school remains a pillar of excellence for those who are committed to and invested in early childhood educational practices that honor the creativity, questions, interests, and strengths of all young children. Each year, the school continues to host hundreds of visitors from Winthrop and the broader community, offering them an early childhood program model for what can be. For more information about the school, please visit: www.winthrop.edu/coe/macfeat.

"We couldn't ask for a better program for our children. They are with teachers who are experts in child development and education, who know exactly how to meet each child where they are at and work with them individually to help them grow. Plus, they get even more attention with all the student teachers who obviously love the kids and have a passion to become teachers. The kids are in a learning-filled environment every day, yet learning through play with all the opportunities to run, imagine, create, and explore. They absolutely love it. Macfeat is like a tight-knit family, yet on a wider campus that allows for experiences that no other school could offer. It's an amazing opportunity to start your kids off on the best track possible!"

"Like most parents, I want the best for my kids. Macfeat provides such a well-rounded experience for kids - from educational to social and emotional well-being. The teachers, graduate assistants, and staff make personal connections with my kids. These meaningful relationships not only help prepare them for school, but help develop their interpersonal skills."



BINGOCIZE

In spring of 2022, Winthrop University was awarded a \$1.3 million dollar grant to implement a program aimed to improve the quality of life for residents living in South Carolina nursing homes. Drs. Joni Boyd and Jennifer Bossi, in collaboration with two other South Carolina universities, will implement Bingocize® in 60 skilled nursing facilities in the state. Bingocize®, which couples the game of Bingo with adapted exercises for the senior population, includes strengthening and range of motion exercises to reduce the risk of falls and improve the quality of life. Residents benefit from the physical, cognitive, and social aspect of playing bingo and completing exercises.



In the program's early stages, Bingocize®-SC has worked to implement the program in 25 state facilities, with a goal to reach 60 by the end of the grant period. The Bingocize®-SC team aims to serve 50 residents per session twice per week in 60 homes over a three-year period, positively impacting more than 3000 skilled nursing home residents. Sustainability is an additional strength of this initiative, as the funding covers the training and development of the up to 300 nursing home staff in South Carolina. Finally, Bingocize®-SC funds the training and incorporation of 800 college students from Winthrop, Anderson, and Coastal Carolina universities. The overall impact of Bingocize®-SC is far-reaching, including more than 4000 nursing home residents, staff, and college students.

Along with Bingocize® training sessions, the team has worked to ensure the benefits of the initiative are being met. Various team members also coordinate and provide content for the Bingocize®-SC's social media and newsletter. The sharing of information across the state and nation has helped further the experiences of the team and has expanded the vitality of this program. "Working with this program has helped me see how healthful living can be accomplished through conventional entertainment and activities," one Bingocize®-SC team member said. The program has received positive feedback from several facilities expressing the benefits for their residents. For more information, follow Bingocize®-SC on Facebook or e-mail Dr. Joni Boyd at boydj@winthrop.edu.

DENNIS DOTTERER & SHERRY HOYLE

Educational Leadership



A cornerstone of the educational leadership program at Winthrop is the idea of authentic application. The Master of Education (M.Ed.) and Specialist (Ed.S.) in educational leadership programs are led by Drs. Sherry Hoyle and Dennis Dotterer who bring decades of experience at the school, district, and state level into the classroom. Dr. Hoyle spent over thirty years working in Lincoln County Schools in North Carolina, rising through the district ranks from an elementary school teacher to superintendent. In addition to serving many years as principal at the elementary and middle school level, Dr. Dotterer spent over a decade working for the South Carolina Department of Education in varying capacities. Drs. Hoyle and Dotterer have tapped into their own diverse leadership experiences designing the curriculum for each program. Each cohort's experience is specially designed and tailored in collaboration with districts, in both North Carolina and South Carolina, taking initiatives into consideration from the district and state level to provide practical applications for the students. Using their vast network, educational leaders are invited from all facets of the PK-12 educational system to bring real-time perspective. The cohort model works to create lifelong partnerships molding useful research and practical application. Drs. Hoyle and Dotterer take great pride in the authentic experience provided to students during their time at Winthrop and are excited as they watch graduates from the educational leadership programs impact and lead schools and districts throughout the Carolinas and beyond. As leaders in their own right, Drs. Hoyle and Dotterer are continually exploring ways in which to build and expand program offerings and partnerships to increase and strengthen the educational leadership program at Winthrop.

ON THE LEADING EDGE

- **Dr. Marshall Jones**, professor and program director for the M.Ed. in learning design and technology, traveled to Vietnam this fall as an invited guest of the United States Embassy in Hanoi. He provided the Plenary Keynote and conducted preconference workshops at the annual meeting of VietTESOL in Nha Trang, Vietnam. VietTESOL is the largest conference related to teaching English as a second language in Vietnam. In addition to the conference, he also conducted workshops for K-12 teachers, administrators, and higher education faculty in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.
- **Drs. Joy Stapleton, Richard Cox, and Margaret Gillikin** were awarded a \$10,000 African American History Instructional Materials grant from the South Carolina Department of Education. They will explore inquiry by designing units for third grade, seventh grade, and Human Geography focusing on a fascinating story about African Americans who migrated from South Carolina to Africa in 1871.



- The leadership team in the college now includes some familiar faces in new roles. **Ms. Melanie Sanders** was named the new director in the Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School. **Dr. Bettie Parsons Barger** took on the official role of the coordinator for the educator preparation programs in addition to her other roles in the college. **Dr. Erin Hamel** was named associate dean while **Dr. Beth Greene Costner** became the new dean for the College of Education.

- The college has hosted or conducted a variety of cultural and professional development events for students and faculty in 2022. A few examples include: **Mr. Geoff Morrow:** *Women in the Outdoors: Women Outward Bound Documentary*; **Dr. Crystal Glover:** *Beyond Position Statements: Focusing on Equity During Challenging Times*; **Dr. April Mustian:** *Demystifying Disability: How to Begin the Shift from Ableism to Allyship*; **Dr. Margaret Gillikin:** *Religious Diversity in the Classroom*; **Dr. Jeremy Lopuch:** *Creating Opportunities: Empowering Students In Your Classroom*; **Drs. Stacey Martin and Dennis Dotterer:** *Engaging in Crucial Conversations*; **Ms. Ronda Collins, Ms. Shaniqua Corley-Moore, and Ms. Elizabeth Moore:** series on marketing and technology; and **Dr. Martha Dettl-Rivera:** mental health first aid training.
- **Dr. Kelly Costner** and **Robin (Missy) Babinchak**, math interventionist at Sugar Creek Elementary (Fort Mill School District), were awarded a grant from the Fostering Support of Mathematics Learning for Multilingual Learners program of the Mathematics Education Trust, a fund administered by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Their project, entitled Strategies for Teaching that Empower Multilinguals for Mathematics Success (STEMMS), features a book study across the 2022-23 school year. Accompanying discussions and activities will help approximately 20 participating teachers develop and improve culturally and linguistically appropriate instructional perspectives, strategies, and resources.
- In fall 2022, Winthrop added a track to the M.Ed. in special education intervention that will allow teachers in other certification areas to pursue additional certification in special education while working on a graduate degree. This program is 100% online.
- During the fall 2022 semester, **Dr. Crystal Glover**--awardee of the Bank of America Professorship that selects education faculty to develop an early childhood curriculum centering on the humanity and joy of children of color and their families--finalized the structure for the Institute on Black Joy in Early Childhood Curriculum (IBJECC), identified readings for summer 2023, and solidified the format for data collection to include focus groups, classroom observations, and semi-structured interviews. She plans to recruit participants beginning spring 2023 with the goal of securing six to eight practicing PK-2 classroom teachers from across the state. Professional development sessions with participants will begin in summer 2023.

MOLLY GARRISON

"When I think about my Winthrop degree, I can help but smile and remember the community and support that I had during my time on campus and how it has continued past my time at Winthrop. I am proud to have been a first-generation college student, and my degree is a symbol of that accomplishment and the adversity that I faced to achieve it," shared Winthrop alumna Molly Garrison.

Molly, now living in Charlotte, graduated in May 2022 from Winthrop with a degree in physical education and minor in outdoor leadership. She now serves as the assistant camp director at Camp Canaan, in which she is utilizing her degree in a different way than she imagined but loving every



minute of it! "I am loving this new phase of life! I live in Charlotte and am still connected to a lot of my friends from Winthrop. The biggest adjustment has definitely been working full time and balancing everything that comes with it. I definitely miss the spontaneity and freedom of being a college student, but at the same time, I am really enjoying my job and the office culture that has come with it," she shared.

In addition to being active within her physical education program and a Peer Mentor, Molly also was one of the recipients of the Jennie F. Rakestraw Student Success Fund, which Molly credits as support that helped her maximize her time at Winthrop: "I was a student in the ASPIRE Program, so my internship placement was a 1-hour commute. The money I was granted through the Rakestraw Fund helped pay for my gas to get to and from school every day. If I didn't receive the financial support, I do not know if I would have been able to participate in the ASPIRE Program."

Though she has graduated, Molly still can be seen at Winthrop as an instructor for PESH 172: Outdoor Education: Rafting, Camping, and Backpacking. "I teach my students the basics of backpacking, then we go on a weekend-long trip where we whitewater raft and backpack for two nights. It's truly a blessing to get to share my love for the outdoors with students, while staying plugged in to the Winthrop community that I hold so dearly!"



BASIC INSTRUCTION & OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP

For Geoff Morrow, director of Winthrop's outdoor education & basic instruction program, going outside of his comfort zone is what led him to his current role: "I always loved the outdoors and had worked various jobs in outdoor settings; however, I had never pursued opportunities to lead others in those settings. In 2005, I enrolled in a challenge course facilitation class, which taught me how to facilitate high and low ropes course experiences...and I fell in love with it! I'd always been extremely nervous and uncomfortable speaking in front of groups, but in my role as a facilitator, I discovered a new sense of confidence and competence in these situations."



Sophomore exercise science major Gabe Halka considered the outdoor leadership minor to be a no-brainer: "This is one of the only minors where, in my opinion, the classes are all fun. You get to learn so much about yourself and meet some awesome people, and most importantly you can do so while skiing, backpacking, shooting a bow and arrow, and more."



STUDY ABROAD

Nearly two years after the COVID-19 pandemic turned the world upside down, more College of Education students are seeking ways to explore new cultures and develop opportunities for undergraduate study around the world. Senior Kyra Sikorski furthered her knowledge of France at Aix-Marseille Université in Aix-en-Provence, France, which allowed her the ability to learn about French culture while experiencing it first hand. "I can use these experiences I witnessed to progress the cultural comprehension and understanding of my future students. I am studying to become a French teacher and I feel that the fact I studied in France makes me more credible and more reliable when I talk about cultural differences or experiences in France," Kyra shared.

Sophomore early childhood education major Kathryn Kiser will be heading to Florence, Italy in spring 2023 to study at Florence University of the Arts, where she plans to use the experience to shape her future classroom. "I think this experience will help me to develop many professional skills such as organization, communication, and many more. This experience of immersing myself into a new culture will also help give me a perspective on how my future international students and English language learners will feel. I will be able to find new strategies that I can use, and maybe I can find new ways to enhance my classroom!"

TEACHING FELLOWS



South Carolina Teacher of the Year Deion Jamison



Winthrop President Edward Serna

Winthrop Teaching Fellows welcomed an incoming freshman class of 32 students, complete with a ropes course team building activity at the Whitewater Center in Charlotte. From there, freshman met the entire Teaching Fellows cohort during the first week of classes. This meeting held significance for sophomore and junior Teaching Fellows, as they were finally able to engage in opportunities that were previously upended by the pandemic. With Big Teach/Little Teach families, students were able to build relationships and develop leadership skills.

The Teaching Fellows also learned from incredible guest speakers this fall. South Carolina Teacher of the Year Deion Jamison shared his experiences educating students and how educators can close the opportunity gap for PK-12 students. Winthrop President Edward Serna talked about leadership and shared how John Quincy Adams's quote, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader" has impacted his leadership style. Finally, Craig King from Palmetto State Teachers Association provided strategies to motivate PK-12 students to be successful. He shared how the use of drama and theatre can bring content from all subject areas to life.

Additionally, Teaching Fellows have been busy across Winthrop's campus and in the community. They welcomed more than 300 teacher cadets, served as Ambassadors, and staffed the Professional Clothes Closet. They volunteered in classrooms, on the field, and in other community organizations. This spring, they will be preparing to host mock interviews for prospective Teaching Fellows. Drs. Bettie Parson Barger and David Vawter shared, "The past three years have impacted what Teaching Fellows have been able to do. We would like to commend our Teaching Fellows for jumping back into the committee work, community building, and service requirements. They are an impressive group of future educators."

JANE RAWLS

Jane Rawls, administrative specialist in the College of Education (COE), will be retiring in December after 22 years of service to Winthrop University.

Since this past summer, Ms. Rawls has been in significant transition. This may not sound unique, but she is doing so within her final year at Winthrop. With personnel changes and restructuring needs in the COE, Ms. Rawls has been called upon to retool skills and physically relocate (from the office she has occupied since arriving at Winthrop) to a new building across campus. Ms. Rawls also split her time between multiple locations to help the college and university meet expectations, taking on the duties of administrative support for the Physical Education, Sport, and Human Performance department in the West Center and Teaching Fellows in Withers. Each day, she manages to work in both offices, handling tasks efficiently and expeditiously.

To be noted, Ms. Rawls was not new to Withers when she was hired as she actually attended the Winthrop Training School as a 5K student. She considers Withers an extension of her home and takes pride in the building, welcoming guests, hosting tours (even on weekends), and being relied on as the COE's resident historian. Leaving Withers as planned upon her retirement would have been very difficult, but doing so six months earlier and enduring this transition with such grace and such



care for the college and university is important to recognize.

Ms. Rawls exemplifies leadership in her willingness to take on extra roles to ensure successful operations of all COE departments. While many were winding down for summer break, Ms. Rawls was called upon to assume more responsibilities and learn new job functions. Jane loves Winthrop and the COE!

Ms. Rawls has also assisted with several accreditation visits and associated tasks, served on the United Way Campaign Committee, provided administrative support to numerous college committees, and for many years took the lead in organizing the COE's holiday celebration. Ms. Rawls builds community naturally and has even built a reputation for spoiling her coworkers with her homemade sweets. She has also been awarded the COE's award for Support Staff Excellence in Service (2017) and most recently was named as Winthrop's Staff Member of the Month (June 2022).

Ms. Rawls' dedication to the COE and Winthrop has never wavered. Without a doubt, she will be missed terribly by her Winthrop family!



JENNIE F. RAKESTRAW FUND

In her role as dean of the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Dr. Jennie Rakestraw regularly encountered students needing additional financial assistance to attend conferences, pay for certification exams, complete research opportunities, or purchase professional clothing for an internship. These many additional costs students face can be overwhelming. To honor Dr. Rakestraw at the time of her retirement in December of 2021, the Jennie F. Rakestraw Student Success Fund was established. This fund was designed to assist students who are wanting to invest in their career but need a little additional financial support in order to do so.



Dean Emerita Rakestraw with three of the Rakestraw Fund recipients.

The first group of recipients received funding in the spring of 2022. Six students from across the College of Education were given assistance to pay for certification exams, attend a professional conference to receive an award, pay dues for a professional organization, and purchase clothes to prepare for an internship and future job.

As it was being created, the Rakestraw Student Success Fund also had in mind the many alums who remember the added stress of that extra tank of gas needed to get to an internship and want to give back but do not have the ability to give sizeable donations. The Rakestraw Student Success Fund is a way for our alumni to give back in small donations that make a big impact.

JESSIE WILLIAMS LITTLE AWARD

Each year, the College of Education is delighted to award mentor teachers with the Jessie Williams Little "Leading the Way" Award. Established in honor of Jessie Williams Little '73, this award serves to recognize mentor teachers who offer crucial support and guidance to new and future educators. We are fortunate to be able to offer a monetary award to the winner, finalists, and semi-finalist. In 2022, we recognized nine incredible mentor teachers at a reception in April. Nominations have been submitted for the 2023 Jessie Williams Little "Leading the Way" award. Please consider donating to reward teachers who make a significant impact on the recruitment and retention of teachers in South Carolina public schools.



Give today by visiting www.winthrop.edu/coe and clicking the "Make an Online Gift" button to donate and designate your gift to a specific fund.





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