




Staff Conference

Friday, September 29, 2023

Owens G02



STAFF CONFERENCE 2023 - 2024

MISSION: S.P.A.C.E.

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

SUPPORT
POSITIVITY
ADVOCACY
COLLABORATION
EMPOWERMENT



STAFF CONFERENCE 2023 - 2024

MISSION: S.P.A.C.E.

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

TODAY'S THEME:
POSITIVITY



Upcoming Events

FALL FEST

Tuesday, October 31
3:30pm-5:30pm

- Refreshments
- Kettle corn for sale
- Games, contests & activities
- Lots of fun!



Upcoming Events

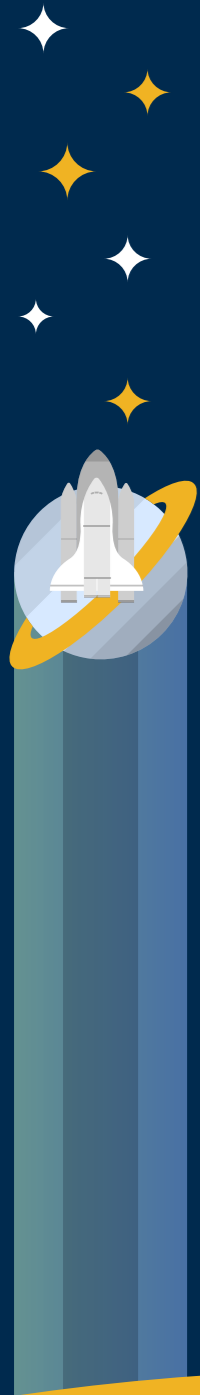
City of Rock Hill
Christmas Parade
Friday, December 1
6:30pm, Oakland Ave.

- Opportunity to walk in the parade with your family and/or colleagues and represent Winthrop!



Seeking committee members & chair!

Upcoming Events



November 6 - 11, 2023

Good News



5

Best Public Universities in the South
(our highest ranking EVER!)

5

Best College for Veterans

13

Best College for Social Mobility

11

Best Universities in the South (Overall)

33

Best Value

Also ranked among the best
undergraduate business programs and computer science programs.

Good News



Undergraduate Enrollment

90%

Spring-to-Fall Return Rate

↑ 17%

New Transfers (268)

73%

Fall-to-Fall Retention

The strongest retention rate since fall '17!

↑ 22%

New Freshmen (867)

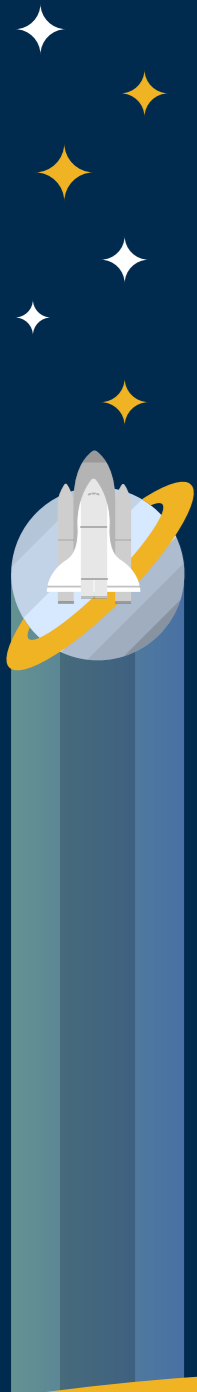


Good News





Committee Updates



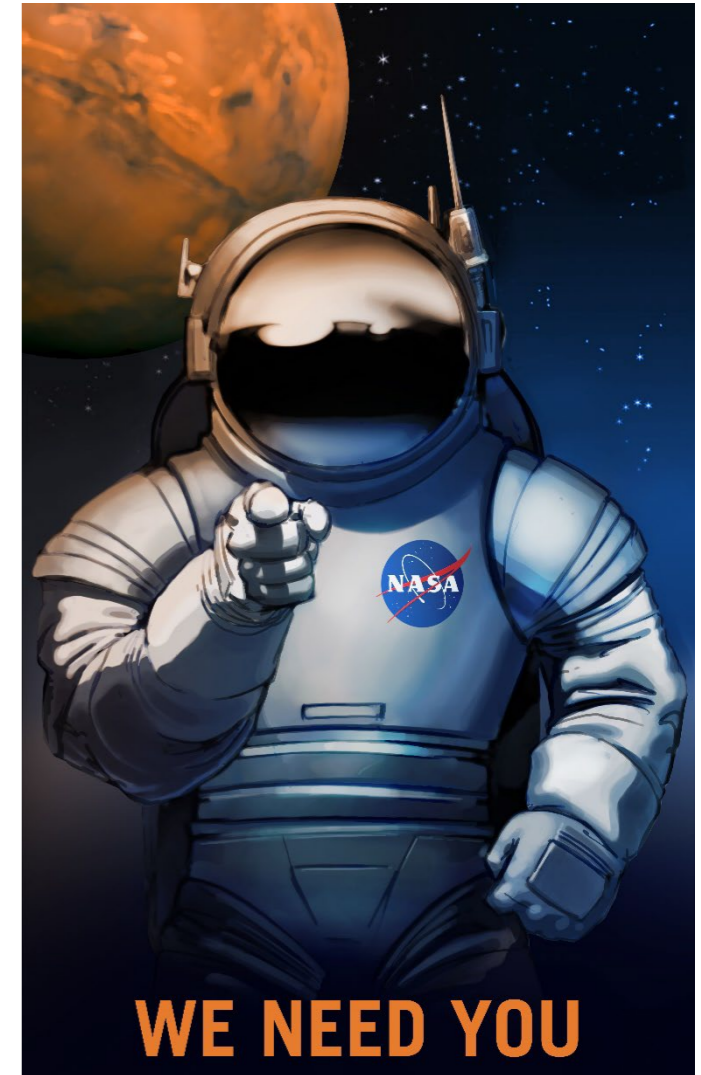
Committee Updates

Please consider [supporting](#) the wonderful work that our Staff Conference standing committees do!

You don't have to be on Staff Assembly to join a committee – anyone can join (and the more the merrier!)

- Campus & Community Involvement
- Staff Recognition
- Elections & Nominations
- Professional Development
- Media & Communications
- Staff Feedback

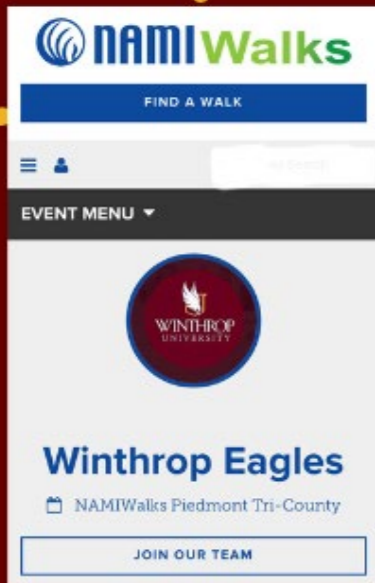
If you are interested in joining one of these committees, please contact us at staffassembly@winthrop.edu.





Staff Conference

Campus & Community Involvement
Committee



**ALL TOGETHER -
FOR MENTAL
HEALTH FOR ALL**



Oct 7th @ 9 am Cherry Park
Join us to help end the stigma
Winthrop Eagles Walk Team
#Together4MH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEL4Pd2KOvI>



The families and members of NAMI Piedmont Tri-County are here to help! We offer understanding to anyone concerned about mental illnesses and the treatment of mental illness.

Join us at our Drop-In Centers
The Hut, 415 Oakland Avenue, **Rock Hill SC** 29730

Hours: Mon, Tues and Wed 11 AM - 3 PM



Staff Conference

Staff Recognition
Committee

Welcome New Staff!

Anthony Patterson – Athletics

Alexandra Strong – Athletics

Morgan Wyatt – Athletics

Malik Smith – Office of Records and Registration

Cara Wilkins – Office of Records and Registration

Meredith Dantzler – CERRA South Carolina

Jeffery Parker – Facilities Management

Dorothea White – Facilities Management

Allison Morton – Office of the VP University Advancement

Oakley Thompson – Residence Life

Tyler Cooper – Residence Life

Staff Member of the Month Nominees

Thanks for all you do!

Staff Member of the Month
Nominee

Staff Member of the Month Nominees

Kara Traverse—Office of Records and Registration

Daniel Charles— Office of Online Learning

Andria Tolbert—Human Resources

Kathryn Hughes—Center for Student Wellness

Christina Williams—College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences

Nicole Ford—Center for Student Wellness

Lauren Barnett—Department of Social Work

Debbie Garrick—University Advancement

Katie Price—Communications & Marketing

Jessica Farmer—Office of Records and Registration

Paula Garofalo—Office of Admissions

Niki Behr—Payroll Department

An aerial photograph of a university campus, showing various buildings, green spaces, and a large tower. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent light blue filter. The text "And the winner is..." is centered in a bold, dark red font.

And the winner is...



Kara Traverse

Office of Records and Registration



Staff Member of the Month

September 2023

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a brick wall with a stone plaque reads "WINTHROP UNIVERSITY". Behind the wall is a large, multi-story brick building with a classical facade, featuring several columns and a pediment. The building is surrounded by large, mature trees with green and yellowing leaves. The sky is clear and blue.

October 2023 Winner...

To Be Announced!

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

Nominate a Colleague!

Nominations will be accepted until the close of business on the last day of each month.



www.winthrop.edu/staff/staff-awards.aspx



Staff Conference

Elections & Nominations
Committee



Staff Conference

Professional Development
Committee



Staff Conference

Media & Communications
Committee



Staff Conference

Staff Feedback
Committee

Staff Feedback

Q.1: I think it might be helpful to send out [an invite to all staff](#) reminding them (and to new staff telling them) that they can join Staff Conference. I was hired in September and no one told me about Staff Conference. I found it by chance on the website. Many of our staff were hired within the past 8-10 months... I don't know that any of them know about Staff Conference and the fact that the meetings are open to all to attend/join. It sounds like a great group and I look forward to attending meetings in the future.

A.1: We have been making an effort to send out more emails, as well as calendar invites to all staff for each Staff Conference meeting and will continue to do so.

We encourage all departments to mention Staff Conference to all their new hires, and please have them (or anyone NOT receiving All-Staff emails) to email staffassembly@winthrop.edu to get added to the email list. The All-Staff email list does NOT get updated automatically with new hires!

Updates and helpful information are also posted on the Staff Conference Facebook group!

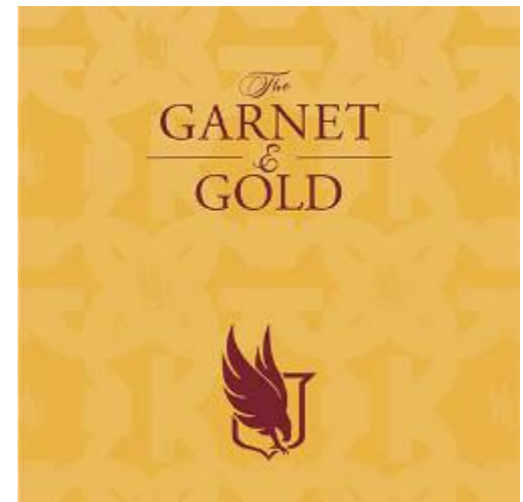
Staff Feedback

Q: I think having a [Winthrop mural](#) or [Winthrop wings](#) painted somewhere easily accessible on campus for photo ops would be a great idea. Many colleges have these, and it is a great social media marketing tool.

A: Yes! This is something that has been discussed by several groups – including the Campus Beautification Initiative committee – and is still under consideration in terms of the best location on campus, the design of the mural/photo area, and resources to make it happen. More to come on this!

Q: I believe that [traditions](#) are important and that we as a whole are lacking in that department. I would love to see a ring ceremony implemented like other colleges have.

A: We have a number of traditions on campus that speak to Winthrop's rich history, including a ring ceremony! When the official Winthrop ring design was adopted in 2003, the university also began honoring our ring recipients with the Official Ring Ceremony. Students who have purchased a Winthrop ring are invited to attend the Ring Ceremony where they will be presented with their official Winthrop ring. Family and friends are invited to join. Other tradition-based events hosted are the Blue Line, Annual Tree Lighting, Homecoming and Reunion and Ghost Tours. Read more about Winthrop's treasures and traditions in the [Garnet & Gold Book!](#)



Staff Feedback

Q1: My first impression at Winthrop University is how incredibly **inaccessible** it is for those with physical disabilities. For Tillman, the entrance looks scary and intimidating. The walkways are cracked and have rugs thrown over as a "quick fix." Accessibility should always be a priority. There are elevators breaking down and not fixed in a timely manner. I am not sure if the campus does an accessibility walk, but it needs to be done. Those making these decisions need to try to access the campus as if they had physical disabilities. I do not even have a physical disability nor even had a focus on that aspect, but these issues are glaring. We should not have to wait for a lawsuit to fix something. Tillman's steps in the rain (especially in the fall with wet leaves) are extremely slippery. I have seen many slip and catch themselves laughing it off.

A: Accessibility is absolutely a priority! As you can imagine, especially with our older buildings, some things can be more challenging to address. However, our Facilities and Office of Accessibility teams are hard at work! James Grigg (AVP – Facilities) regularly walks campus taking varying routes to identify issues, and does an accessibility walk around campus with our Council of Student Leaders twice a year to identify areas of concern. In 2022, Winthrop worked with a consultant to do a study looking at accessible routes on campus and areas of concern in buildings, and these items are actively being addressed. If you notice any areas of concern, please submit a Barrier and Access Issues report to the Office of Accessibility at <https://www.winthrop.edu/student-affairs/accessibility/report-barriers.aspx> or contact James Grigg so it can be addressed!

***Note: This question was submitted before much of this summer's accessibility work began.*

Staff Feedback

Q: Today's the second day without AC in Crawford after the power outage. I called Facilities yesterday and learned that several buildings were experiencing AC issues and that there was no timeline. I understand that, however it would be really nice to have **regular updates** when things like this happen so that we know folks are working on our behalf to get our working conditions back up to snuff. Sometimes we feel forgotten over here when we experience facilities and building issues that take a while to correct. I optimistically believe that work is happening, but it would be nice to have that confirmed through daily updates.

A: Facilities has been working to communicate more with campus when there are issues, especially when it's something that affects the entire campus or multiple buildings, trying to limit all-campus emails when appropriate. If you ever want any updates or have questions about work that is going on, status of work orders, etc. please reach out to Morgan or Cindy in Facilities!

Staff Feedback

***Note from the committee:* Some feedback we received shared concerns over specific issues related to this person not feeling their experience or input is valued in their office.

We care very much about this person and their concerns! However, we felt sharing their exact feedback was maybe a bit too specific to a situation or an office, and this person wanted to remain anonymous.

A situation like this is exactly why our Ombuds office was established! Concerns like these can be shared with the Ombuds in a confidential manner and can help identify ways to handle situations like these to find some resolution.

Jackie Concodora is our Winthrop Ombuds, and she can be reached at ombuds@winthrop.edu.



University Updates

STRATEGIC PLANNING AT WINTHROP



Post-Town Hall Survey

Deadline: TODAY! bit.ly/46lzoz1



Fin a n c i a l Aid – FAFSA
M i c h e l l e H a r e

2024-2025 FAFSA Changes

Michelle Hare, M.Ed., FAAC[®]

Director of Financial Aid

harem@winthrop.edu

- Changes are a result of the FAFSA Simplification Act passed by Congress in 2020 – Goal to “simplify” the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for students.
- Biggest overhaul in financial aid processing since FAFSA implementation
 - Last big update was prior prior year FAFSA moving FAFSA filing earlier from January 1st to October 1st
- Removes barriers to FAFSA completion for the most at-risk populations
- 2024-25 FAFSA won’t be available until December (usually available October 1st)
- Benefits
 - Streamlined and easier FAFSA experience for students and parents
 - Increase the number of Pell Grant students as more students will be Pell Grant eligible based on these changes
 - Potential reduction in items students need to provide as majority of tax information will be shared through IRS and Department of Education

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) becomes **Student Aid Index (SAI)**
 - EFC hasn't really estimated what a family could contribute to college in over 30 years. This is a better term for what is used to calculate financial aid.
- Considerations
 - Current students may see a change in aid eligibility next year moving from EFC to SAI. We will not know the extent of the changes until spring when 2024-25 FAFSAs arrive.
 - 2024-25 FAFSA will not release until December 2023 (it normally opens October 1st) which will give the Office of Financial Aid much less processing time.
 - Department of Education is severely underfunded so there may not be sufficient customer service to assist students who run into technical issues when completing the 2024-25 FAFSA
- Other Changes
 - Number of family members in college no longer a factor in calculating SAI
 - Parent who provides the most financial support is the one who should be used on the FAFSA (instead of the one student lived with most)
 - Summer pell grants will no longer require half-time attendance (begins summer 2025 for Winthrop students).

- Anticipated Impact on Students
 - More students will be eligible for Pell Grant
 - Average Pell grant will be higher
 - Delayed aid offers for incoming students (late March instead of December) – not just Winthrop, every college will experience this.
- What Can YOU Do?
 - Forget you ever heard the term EFC
 - In January, encourage students to file the 2024-25 FAFSA. Because we don't know when in December the FAFSA will be released, and we expect the first couple of weeks to have some real technical difficulties, we are suggesting students complete the FAFSA in early January.
 - Evaluate your materials as you gear up for 2024-25 and replace any references to EFC with SAI
- Future Information – <https://www.winthrop.edu/finaid/fafsa-information.aspx> - will be updated as we get updated information.

THANK YOU!



Staff Conference

United Way
Nicole Chisari



UNITED IN PURPOSE



United Way of
York County, SC





Staff Conference

Winthrop Think College
Ryan Morrison



Winthrop **LIFE**



Staff Conference

Winthrop Athletics