

## Vice President's Welcome



**Shelia H. Burkhalter**  
Vice President for  
Student Affairs

Welcome to Winthrop University and our amazing Eagle family! I am so excited about the experiences that you will have here and the impact that each of you will have on our community.

Your journey at Winthrop will take you far beyond the classroom. You will meet people with viewpoints, backgrounds, and experiences that may differ from your own and you'll be exposed to new ideas. We hope you will embrace these opportunities and view each new conversation and engagement as a way to learn, develop, grow, and expand.

In the Division of Student Affairs, our students are our purpose. We are singularly focused on our mission to provide an engaging, inclusive student-centered experience through intentional learning opportunities, purposeful programs, and nurturing relationships to transform student lives. Whether it's finding your place on campus, connecting with other students who share and challenge your perspectives, learning a new skill, stretching your understanding of yourself and your world through involvement, caring for yourself, or clarifying what you believe and value, we are here for you.

Student Affairs professionals are educators who anticipate and respond to the developmental and emerging needs of students. They are focused on your safety, health, and well-being; student engagement and involvement; student success; and career readiness. I encourage you to explore our departments, programs, services, and student resources.

Know that we believe in you and all that you can achieve. And, we will be here, walking alongside you in your challenging moments and celebrating your successes.

In closing, I strongly encourage you to take full advantage of the Winthrop Experience while working to embrace the Council of Student Leaders' [Dedication for Excellence \(pdf - 49 kb\)](#).

Be courageous.

**Shelia Higgs Burkhalter**

[Shelia Higgs Burkhalter](#), MBA, MEd

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