



Winthrop University

February 6, 2025

Rock Hill, SC

BYRNES RENOVATIONS

View exclusive photos of the changes made to the auditorium ahead of it's grand reopening in April

WALK2CAMPUS BUYOUT

Hear from students living in the W2C apartments and what exactly this move means for them

WINTHROP DOCTORAL PROGRAM

For the first time in the school's 139 year history, Winthrop will be offering a doctoral degree

Winthrop students protest Trump administration led ICE raids in Charlotte

Winthrop organizations College Republicans, College Democrats and Latines Unidos discuss the ICE raids happening around the nation and Rock Hill area.

Kyan Feser
 Staff Writer

Within days of inauguration, repeals on Biden-era legislation allows ICE (the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency) to raid "sensitive locations," places like schools and churches that were previously untouchable. This began a swath of ICE raids throughout the country, aiming to detain immigrants and fulfill Trump's border/immigration control promises.

In a statement from the Department of Homeland Security, the administration said: "This action empowers the brave men and women in CBP and ICE to enforce our immigration laws and catch criminal aliens—including murders and rapists—who have illegally come into our country. Criminals will no longer be able to hide in America's schools and churches to avoid arrest."

Additionally, Trump plans to detain

30,000 immigrants in a Guantánamo Bay migrant facility, announcing the plan last Wednesday. This coincided with the Lanken Riley Act signing, a bill further enforcing Trump's strict policies.

To many, "the actions being done by ICE are not only justified but necessary," said David Ibragimov, the now retired president of Winthrop College Republicans.

"Thousands of Americans have died from illegal fentanyl coming through the southern border, as well as from the deaths resulting from illegal criminals that have devastated many local communities throughout the country."

As such, neglect from Republicans and Democrats is no longer tolerated, Ibragimov said. "This has resulted in the Presidential win of Donald Trump, who has vowed to radically address the ever-growing crisis that is

currently taking place." "As a 2nd-generation immigrant myself, it pains me to see these measures take place, but it has reached a point where no other solution can address the immigration crisis," Ibragimov explained.

On the contrary, many people oppose the Trump administration's decisions.

ICE raids "often disregard constitutional requirements," said Caden Johnson, the president of Winthrop College Democrats.

"[The raids] often use the element of force to enter homes when they shouldn't or blatantly lie to get arrests, they've been caught fabricating evidence before, they racially profile those deemed as 'illegal aliens' and their aims are changing from violent criminals to all undocumented immigrants as a whole being the main focus," he added.

"The future that I see being most realistic is an increased use of

violence against minorities with an increased response from minorities in terms of self-protection. I don't see this doing any real changes to the amount of undocumented immigrants coming in, and this will further be a money sinkhole that doesn't pay off much," Johnson said.

"I don't think it's justified to seek out these at-risk populations seeking to achieve a better life who have done nothing wrong."

However, Trump plans to combat these asylum-seekers by redefining the 14th Amendment.

Currently, "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside," according to the amendment itself.

Trump's definition

Cont. on pg. 2



Members of Latines Unidos in uptown Charlotte protesting recent ICE raids photo by Gwen Pregnall



Protesters holding up their signs photo by Gwen Pregnall

It's official: 2024 was the hottest year on record

Amid dramatic policy shifts from the White House, NASA confirms unprecedented global temperatures.

Zachary Bell
 News Editor

Global temperatures have reached a new high, according to a report from NASA. The Agency found that average temperatures were 2.30 degrees Fahrenheit (1.28 degrees Celsius) above their baseline. This follows 15 consecutive months of record-breaking temperatures—a heat streak that NASA describes as "unprecedented."

Climatologists have understood the correlation between these warming trends and human activity.

"We can recognize that carbon dioxide is definitively coming from humans," Dr. Boyer, a Winthrop

professor of geology and climate science, told the Johnsonian. "Coal comes from plants and plants incorporate carbon. This creates a distinct geochemical fingerprint. When we burn coal, that fingerprint goes into the atmosphere."

Higher concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have driven these temperatures upward. However, climate systems are complicated. "You can get hot days and you can get cold days," said Dr. Boyer. "But you still have these averages that are out of the

Cont. on pg. 2

Club spotlight: Rising Artists of Winthrop

Winthrop University's new art club, Rising Artists of Winthrop, or RAW, provides an enjoyable creative outlet for artistic students of all varieties.



RAW club members on a "art walk" at the Riverwalk

photo by Zoe Gumangan

Evi Houston
 Staff Writer

A new space for artistic expression at Winthrop University was born in the fall with the formation of the Rising Artists of Winthrop, better known as RAW. The club has grown in popularity and membership over the course of the last few months and has built an accepting space for

community and student art.

While weekly meetings typically take the form of artistic practice, such as "art walks", the club has also hosted events such as costume parties, open mic nights and art shows for all interested students.

Zoe Gumangan, a fine arts major with a concentration in expanded media

and president of RAW, shared the serendipitous story of how the club began, starting with the encouragement of fine arts Professor Shaun Cassidy, who invited Gumangan to become president one day after class.

"It was very, very impromptu [...] Shaun had an idea of who were the active students in our fine arts

department and our sculpture department," and sought to bring them together.

Mars Simpson, a fine arts major with a concentration in expanded media and secretary of RAW, expanded on the story. "[Shaun] was like, you know, there used to be a good club here and a good community for art, and then it kind of

Cont. on pg. 4

February 6, 2025

Police Blotter



Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Three leaks in West Thomson Hall

West Thomson Hall faced three leaks over a five-day period, beginning on Jan. 23 with a bathroom sink on the first floor. A water leak occurred on the night of Jan. 27 and a toilet leak was reported the following morning, both in third floor rooms. Facilities management was notified to handle each case.

Student bicycle stolen

A resident of Walk2Campus reported to WUPD on Jan. 29 that her bicycle had been stolen. Police found that the lock bolt securing her bicycle was cut off. The case is under active investigation.

Woman followed into DiGiorgio Campus Center

A woman was walking into the DiGiorgio Campus Center on the night of Jan. 29 when she noticed a man following her. Police arrived with a description of the subject but were unable to find him anywhere in the building.

Person not enrolled at Winthrop found staying in Roddey apartments

On Feb 3., an officer responded to a call at Roddey apts. for a subject who was staying there despite not being enrolled on campus. The subject had been told to leave several days prior. It was agreed the subject would be moved out by 5:00 PM.

Woman damages 7-11 property

Rock Hill Police called WUDP to assist with an incident at the 7-11 on South Cherry Road on the night of Jan. 28. A woman was "swinging a bat at the door" of the convenience store when they arrived. She dropped her instrument soon after police instructed her to do so and was taken into custody, where RHPD later addressed the case is ongoing.



mytjnow.com

ICE Raids I Cont. from pg. 1

would reinterpret the document, stating that children of illegal immigrants are disqualified from birthright citizenship.

"They're from here, so why take away that right from them?" said Sidney Perez-Ventura, president of Latines Unidos.

Perez-Ventura and other members of Latines Unidos

participated at a rally in Charlotte on Saturday, Feb.1, in protest of the Trump administration's ICE raids. The day prior, students got together in the lobby of DIGs to make posters for the protest.

Perez-Ventura had her young family members on her mind while preparing for the protest.

"It's really

unconstitutional at the end of the day. It's not gonna affect me but it will probably affect my cousins that are growing up here who have immigrant parents."

Ventura is also the child of immigrant parents, and ICE was recently spotted in their Charleston neighborhood.

"It's so heartbreaking

just seeing how close they were to my parents because my parents are hardworking people. They pay taxes, my dad paid \$1000 to the IRS, got no money back, he had to pay another \$1000 to the IRS... it's just so sad hearing all the misconceptions about immigrant individuals and that they're criminals and that they're out here

just doing all these terrible things, when in reality that's not the case at all. They're just here trying to improve their life. I'm at college right now because of my parents," Perez-Ventura explained.

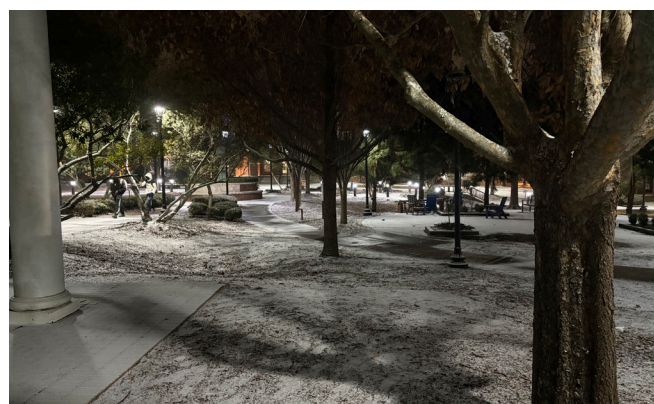
"If they didn't come here to give me a better life, I would not be here and pursuing two degrees. Because of them, I am here."

Climate change in 2024 I Cont. from pg. 1

ordinary."

Temperatures across the Southeast are expected to be abnormally high in February, according to a report from the National Weather Service. The Charlotte area can expect temperatures above 70 degrees, a figure that is above the February average.

Warm weather comes only two weeks after a cold-front deposited half-an-inch of snow in York County, closing Winthrop's campus, as well as other schools and government offices



Snow covering Hardin Garden on Jan. 21

photo by Gabriela Griggs

across the region.

The consequences of climate change

are already being felt. A report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that climate change intensified Hurricane Helene in September. According to the National Integrated Drought Information System, nearly half of South Carolina is experiencing at least an abnormal dryness; York County is experiencing a moderate drought.

In the West, wildfires are intensified and made more common by human-induced climate change. When asked

Dr. Boyer explained that climate change will negatively affect communities across the country. Droughts, hurricanes, and floodings will become more common, but so will socio-economic challenges.

"Under increased temperatures, there's increased crime." Discussing a student's research, Dr. Boyer noted an increase in child marriages within impoverished communities during extreme climatic conditions.

Ten days after NASA released its report, President Trump signed an executive order that withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Accord, although the United States remains one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases. The decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord was followed by an aggressive erasure of climate-related language from the Environmental

Protection Agency's website.

The President's administration plans to ramp up oil production, as well as eliminate fuel standards in vehicles, a dramatic shift from the Biden administration's climate-policy.

Climate experts agree Trump's decision will be disastrous for the global effort to combat climate change.

"We're definitely not doing enough," Dr. Boyer said. "One of the frustrating things is, the more you learn about climate change, the more you learn that there are a myriad of solutions."

However, many of these solutions are expensive, or demand lifestyle changes. Overconsumption is a documented problem in wealthier nations. Industrializing nations, such as those in Africa and Asia, seek prosperity through traditional pathways that will naturally contribute to human-induced climate

change.

Despite the many challenges relating to climate, Dr. Boyer remains confident in humanity. "Humans have innovated and adapted in ways that are really promising. But I don't want to give the impression that it's enough. We still have a lot of work to do, and there's lots of things to be fearful of, but I do think we can make really positive changes."

Winthrop and Rock Hill offer many opportunities for students to get involved in educating and cleaning their community. Students who are interested should seek out Winthrop's Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), the Conservation and Environmental Professions Connection (CEPC), the American Conservation Coalition (ACC), as well as the Rock Hill Clean and Green and the Sierra Club.

CampusWalk residents blindsided by Winthrop's big buyout

Omar Woods
Staff Writer

Right across the train tracks next to Winthrop stand the Walk2Campus buildings. These student residential apartments serve as a means for students to experience apartment life and have a bit more privacy without being too far from Winthrop's campus.

The apartments offered two ways for students to obtain a lease. A student could either go through Winthrop to receive a lease for the school year or a student could go through the Walk2Campus company itself to do so.

Last summer, however, Winthrop revealed to Walk2Campus residents that they have bought out the remainder of the Walk2Campus properties. What this means now for residents is that they now must go through Winthrop in order to obtain a lease for the apartments, and that

CampusWalk will be considered on-campus housing. These changes have shocked many of the students that currently reside in the Walk2Campus properties.

"I'm one of the residents that live in Walk2Campus that's not under Winthrop and the news was a big shock..." Samiya Jeffery, a resident of one of the Walk2Campus properties explained.

"I had contact with everybody here about renewing my lease because they didn't inform me about it beforehand, and originally they told me that they were fully leased out for the next year, when in actuality they were actually bought out..."

Many residents of Walk2Campus felt they were blindsided about how short notice this announcement from Winthrop was. This has led some residents to have to reconsider if they still want to continue their residency in the Walk2Campus

apartments.

"I liked staying at Walk2Campus. I was gonna renew my lease here." Tyler Starks, a junior and resident of Walk2Campus stated. "But now when they came up with that master plan, I think I'm going to have to look at other options, one being The Nest."

A few residents seemed not to mind the change as much as other students.

"I felt nothing negative. I think Winthrop should offer more housing to their students and buying out Walk2Campus would do so." Teagan Sychterz commented.

While some residents had to quickly weigh their options in the terms of where they wanted to live, other residents looked for the reason behind Winthrop's decision.

"Personally, I feel it's a good and a bad thing." A'Kasha Hampton, another Walk2Campus resident stated.

"It's good because you know, there's more housing accessibility

for students. You can tell that Winthrop is growing being that they have to buy this property out and it's bad because people who have been living here in the community are now having to struggle and find somewhere else to live."

A few residents have also had the same sentiment where they attribute Winthrop's decision to buy out Walk2Campus to the university's growing student body.

"I think it's needed. We over accepted people last year and had a lot of freshmen come in." DaShan Scott, another resident, clarified.

"I think it's much needed. Will it become more expensive? Possibly, but they gotta do what they gotta do, you know?"

In the end, an opinion that many of the Walk2Campus residents held was that Winthrop could have been a lot more transparent with them about the big change.

"Transparency. If they had transparency

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Hudson Mize, Advertising Manager

February 6, 2025

Rising Artists of Winthrop | Cont. from pg. 1

died out with COVID. And so he brought together like five or six students [...] and was like, 'I think that you guys should start a new club.'"

Things started slow for the group as they began to get their footing and connect with other creatives on campus. "We started planning events and it was a very slow startup because we didn't really know what we were doing," Gumangan said. Senior advisors to RAW proved beneficial during this stage, as they had experience with RAW's predecessor, Winthrop's Union for Student Artists, or USA, club. Advisors "gave us tips on what did work with USA, what didn't work with USA, and what events were really popular with them. They help a lot with guidance with that."

Professors also played a role in the club's current success. "All the professors here also help and pitch in in any way they can, like helping us get approved for spaces and helping us with food," although most of RAW's operations are student-centered. Gumangan continued, "It's still very student-led. [Shaun] just granted us

the opportunity and it's in our hands now."

Fostering student creativity and autonomy was an essential part of RAW's founding and current practices. "Regardless of your experience, regardless of your background, regardless of how confident you feel, we want you to know that everyone starts from somewhere and everyone deserves to have the opportunity and the accessibility to have their creative outlets and express themselves," the president explained.

The club is nonexclusive to major or talent, but instead hopes to create an enjoyable creative space for all students. "You don't have to be an art major to join our events, to be a part of a RAW. One of the biggest things is [that] we want people to make personal art for themselves, by themselves," Gumangan said.

Taking away the pressure which often accompanies college-level art classes is a defining value of RAW. Blair Bailey, a fine arts major with a concentration in painting and a member of RAW, reiterated this point, "I think having a space where you can

have a creative outlet that's non-judged and nongraded is very important right now."

One example of this accepting atmosphere which stood out to Bailey, Gumangan and Simpson was the club's recent Open Mic night on Jan. 23 where students shared music, poetry, and small skits together. The president was proud of the success of the event, saying, "It was crazy because we filled up the room. There were so many people and it was very exciting to see that people love the arts, people who aren't art majors, who want to perform, who want to share their creations. It was very heartwarming."

Bailey felt the same, noting that the event shared the essence of what RAW seeks to be. "The open mic really showed that this is a comfortable space for people. Everybody was just overwhelmingly supportive. [...] I think that it was really a good example of what we're trying to do here and just let people make the art they want to make and not worry about if it lands or if it's good."

Gumangan shared that RAW hopes to make Open Mic nights a part of its monthly practices due to their



RAW open mic night

photo by Zoe Gumangan

popularity among students.

Along with creative freedom, RAW leadership emphasized community as one of their priorities. Secretary Simpson said, "The overall goal is to have a higher sense of community here. The sense of community here is pretty high, but I don't think it's as high as it could be, especially creatively." Gumangan agreed, "We

want people to have the opportunity to have events to get closer to other creatives to get their own creative outlets out."

Member Aubrey Walden summarized her thoughts on the success of the new club. "I thought it was going to be like a cool little thing. I didn't expect it to be this big. The turnout at the open mic was crazy and I think it's super, super, super

awesome."

To those interested in becoming a member of RAW, Simpson imparted, "If anyone is curious whether they should come to an art club, they should feel extra inclined to because it's a really good place to meet other artists and share your work, especially if you're someone who's trying to make a career out of art. I would encourage you to join."

Winthrop professor profile: Dr. Casey Cothran



Dr. Casey Cothran

photo via www.winthrop.edu

Mia Molfetta
Staff Writer

Dr. Casey Cothran is a beloved professor and mentor to many in the Winthrop community. She has been a full-time professor here at Winthrop for 20 years now, beginning as a part-time instructor.

Dr. Cothran originally majored in Pre-med but returned as an English major after failing chemistry in her first semester. She graduated with her bachelors from Clemson University and her masters and PhD from University of Tennessee.

After she graduated in 2003, Dr. Cothran taught at University of Tennessee and the College of William and Mary in Virginia before becoming a professor at Winthrop.

When asked why she picked Winthrop as the next step in her career, Dr. Cothran said, "We moved here for my husband's job, and when I started here I had a five-month-old. I've taught at other schools, but as my child grew I became a full-time professor and now I've grown from one class to now multiple. It's my favorite here, for many reasons."

When asked about what motivated her

as an educator during the coronavirus pandemic, Dr. Cothran said, "My students, I enjoy working with college students. It's interesting at the beginning of your adult lives, it was very frustrating with the rules but my students were never frustrated."

Having taken one of Dr. Cothran's classes, I can express the most admiration for her as a professor. She makes the classes interesting and keeps you involved, and you can tell she loves what she does, and she makes you love it even more.

Dr. Cothran shared that she had always loved English for as long as she could remember. English and literature had always been important to her, especially "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte. She said that it was special to her because her grandmother had given her a very fragile illustrated copy and she has treasured it forever. It made her realize her love for novels, especially fantasy, mystery and period novels.

This helped her decide what aspect of English literature she wanted to study and teach. She specializes in Nineteenth-Century British Literature,

Women's Writing and Feminist Criticism, Mystery and Detective Fiction, and teaches "Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing," "Mystery and Detective Fiction" and "Fairy Tales and Heroic Quests."

She shared her focus on British-Literature classes because of "Jane Eyre" and other books that led to her love of mystery novels, which brought her to where she is today.

During her free time, Dr. Cothran is not only a wife and mom, but she is also an author. Dr. Cothran is a co-editor of "New Perspectives on Detective Fiction: Mystery Magnified" (Routledge, 2015) and has published in the Victorians Institute Journal and the Wilkie Collins Society Journal.

She also writes on topics of new woman writers, and her work has appeared in "Nineteenth-Century Gender studies," "Working papers in Irish Studies" and she has published in the book collection "New Woman Writers: Authority and the body."

Dr. Cothran has also published young-adult fantasy novels, crime fiction, and graphic novels.

Winthrop implementing new AI policies

University's shift towards differentiating between appropriate and inappropriate use of artificial intelligence and what that looks like for students.

Gabriela Griggs
Staff Writer

Artificial intelligence has seen a stark rise in relevance and use in the academic world over the past few years. As a phrase, artificial intelligence refers to the use of a computer program or robot. Usually, these machines are specifically designed to complete tasks typically associated with humans and are extremely proficient in their capabilities.

With AI becoming increasingly accessible to people, especially popular generative AI programs such as ChatGPT, it's a new focus for University's everywhere to recognize where AI might fit onto campus.

On Winthrop

campus, all classes are required to involve the university's AI policy in their syllabus, which reads, "The use of artificial intelligence to produce work for this course is not allowed unless it is otherwise stated by the instructor. The use of artificial intelligence to create responses for submitted work would be plagiarism as it is still the use of someone else's words as your own. The use of artificial intelligence can also be considered unauthorized assistance if not approved by the professor for use as a research or brainstorming tool."

However, there is an extension to the university policy, which is as follows:

"[We embrace] the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help us improve human learning and performance. There are AI tools to create custom images and background music for multimedia projects. There are also AI tools that can create written responses to specific questions. As AI improves it may help us do our jobs better and more efficiently... it is required that you disclose the use of AI tools in the production of materials and any class assignments. [All] written course requirements including but not limited to discussion board posts, test questions, papers, and projects are to be written by you. The use of any AI tools in the

production of written materials in this class will be considered an issue of Academic Dishonesty."

In reference to Winthrop's Academic Dishonesty policies, it is outlined that using AI produced work and claiming it as one's own lies under the unauthorized behaviors within Academic Misconduct, alongside acts of plagiarism, cheating, work reuse, and others.

The Student Conduct Code, which holds the Academic Dishonesty policies, is emailed to students every semester, ensuring that students are aware and stay up to date with what the university expects. This creates a solid ground of knowledge amongst

all students that helps to ensure they're all knowledgeable of what will be deemed acceptable and appropriate, especially in terms of AI usage.

Altogether, the use of AI, generative or other, remains a problematic topic, especially in the academic world. There are many differing perspectives on it and whether or not it has a place in the classroom whatsoever.

What remains important, no matter what personal opinion one may have about AI in the classroom, is keeping the conversation open. Being able to discuss AI, to outline when and where it can be useful or harmful, helps establish a guideline that can assist both

students and educators in understanding how they may use or not use the programs.

It is also important to emphasize the importance of AI usage on a case by case basis, with certain academic endeavors relying more on honest creation and pure, original research through opinionated essays and original discovery, something currently impossible for AI to replicate and produce.

Others may allow AI for smaller, more aesthetic aspects of projects or pursuits, but there is no current room – especially at Winthrop – for student submission of entirely artificially generated and produced content or products.

Trump administration's crusade against DEI in wake of tragedy: Where do we go from here as a nation?

Adriane Alston
Editorial Editor

Are your favorite companies, policies and politicians racist?

In a time filled with book bans, boycotts and the continuous revoking of workplace rights for marginalized individuals, what is the commonality? Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The term Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is a fairly new choice of verbiage used to depict policies and programs that promote the representation of a diverse array of individuals despite their gender, race, sexual orientation, etc. While this conversation has been continuously expanding over the past few months, a recent conversation has sparked mixed reactions from a

plethora of people.

At the end of January, American Airlines Flight 5342 collided with an army helicopter, killing 67 people. This obviously results in a universal time of despair and sadness – both for individuals who were affected and those who were not directly affected by the plane crash.

In response to the crash, the White House hosted a media conference for President Trump to give his condolences and as a means for him to offer solutions on behalf of the White House.

Instead of Trump further discussing the traumatic experience, he used this as a time to highlight Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Stating that "diversity, equity and inclusion

initiatives for air traffic controllers at the Federal Aviation Administration were partly to blame for the tragic plane and helicopter collision."

Trump was not the only one spouting this belief, as his Secretary of Defense, former Fox anchor Pete Hegseth, doubled down on Trump's statements. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt also backed up Trump's belief that DEI probably played a role in the crash, saying, "one of the things that the American people love most about this president is that he often says what they are thinking, but sometimes lack the courage to say themselves."

This comment sparked controversy in the world of aviation and far beyond it. The

family of one of the Blackhawk pilots, who has now been revealed as Rebecca Lobach, asked to keep her identity a secret for a few days.

Trump used the plane crash to express frustrations with policies in which Obama and Biden promoted pertaining to hiring a diverse array of individuals, highlighting how he "puts safety first" and "Obama, Biden and the Democrats put policy first, and they put politics at a level that nobody's ever seen."

As a country who has prided itself on being a "melting pot" for the vast majority of American history, why is diversity such a controversial topic? Shouldn't we want our classmates, colleagues, friends and more to be somewhat different

from us to increase our knowledge of lifestyles so different from our own? What happens when another traumatic event occurs, will we continue to blame diversity, equity and inclusion based initiatives?

It is extremely disheartening to see negative events like the Flight 5342 plane crash happen in itself, but when these events occur and immediately diversity "is the problem" what does this say about the socio-cultural and political state of our country? This is not an issue of "the left vs the right", this is a human issue that affects everyone involved even if it is not directly. While areas of the country are on fire, food insecurity is at an all time high. Why are companies

and politicians more concerned with stigmatizing diversity based initiatives?

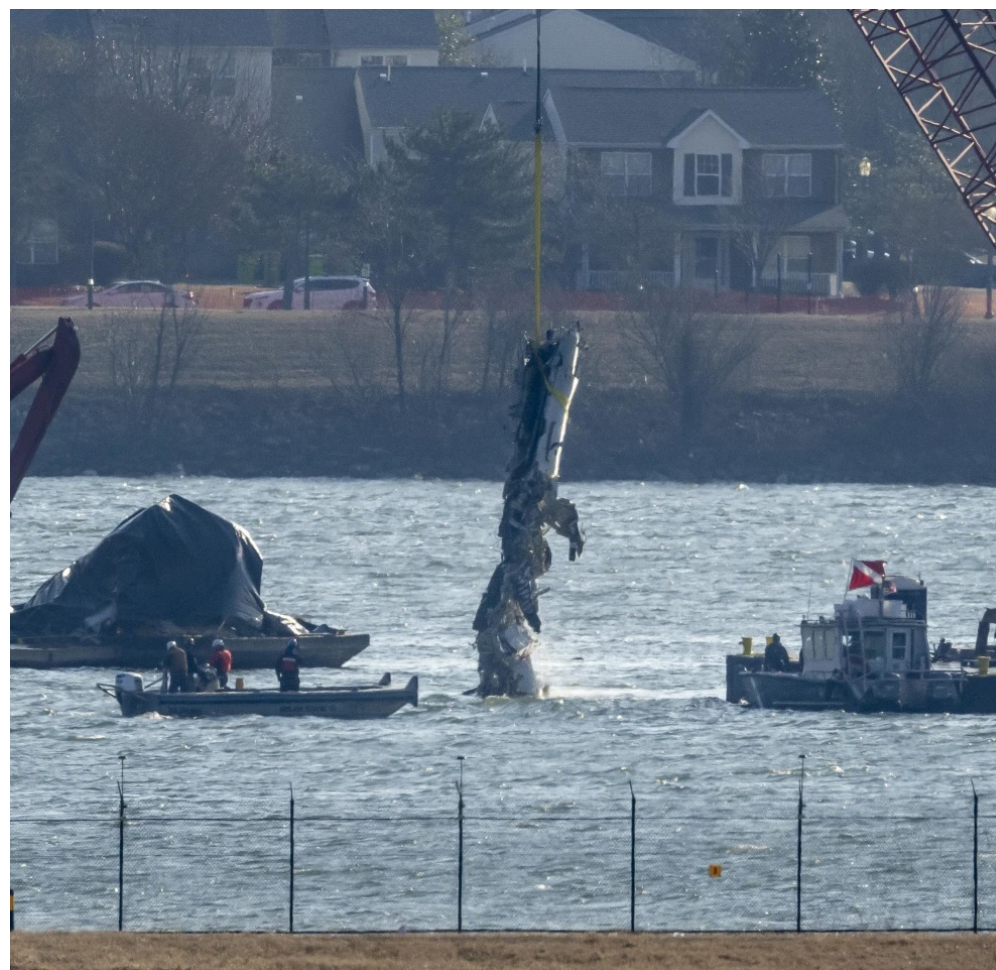
As a country, it is time that we redefine the ideologies, values and phenomena that are most important to us as a community. In the 50's it was the "American Dream" but in a time where autonomy of certain individuals is perceived to be controversial, what is the new "American Dream?"

If we want to establish somewhat of a sense of unity as Americans we have to acknowledge the diversity based factors that make us who we are and the banning or refuting of diversity, equity and inclusion based initiatives is not a step towards attaining a modern day approach to the American dream ideal.



President Trump speaking at the post-crash press briefing on Thursday, Jan. 30

AP Photo/Alex Brandon



Wreckage from American Airlines Flight 5342 being pulled out of the Potomac River in Washington D.C.

AP Photo/Ben Curtis

PHOTO STORY

February 6, 2025

First-look photos of renovations made to Byrnes auditorium

Closed down since August 2018 due to a roof replacement and fire, music classes are beginning to practice in the auditorium, as Winthrop administration prepares to officially reopen the building in April.

Jackson Stanton
Photographer



Wide shot of the inside of Byrnes auditorium

photo by Jackson Stanton



"The Gathering Room:" A brand new room added to Byrnes as a part of the renovations

photo by Jackson Stanton



Changes made to the organ room (upper right) allows for better lighting and sound

photo by Jackson Stanton



View of Byrnes from the very top

photo by Jackson Stanton



View of Byrnes from the stage, with new roof in shot

photo by Jackson Stanton

Winthrop set to offer first doctoral degree

Lanie Cauthen
Staff Writer

Winthrop University hopes to offer its first doctoral degree beginning this fall – along with two new undergraduate degrees.

In Dec., the state approved the creation of Ed.D in Leadership and Innovation degree. The program is now waiting for approval from Winthrop’s major accreditation body – the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The program – through the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport and Human Sciences.

“This is a proud moment for Winthrop University,” President Edward Serna said in a press release. “Now

in its 139th academic year, Winthrop started as a college to train teachers. The addition of a doctoral degree is a natural evolution for our institution and will deliver significant dividends for the region and state for years to come.”

The three-year – 51 credit – program is intended to help those in education fields gain leadership skills to prepare them for real-world experiences. The program is intended to help develop the skills for those intending to work in any educational field. The predicted career paths for this degree program include instructional coordinators, postsecondary education administrators, education

administrators, training and development specialists, health education specialists and museum directors.

“The purpose of this 100% online program is to cultivate versatile leaders in PK-12 and higher education, nonprofits, health education, policy advocacy and corporate training,” Dean of the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences Beth Costner said.

The course will require 18 core credits, 12 research core credits hours, 12 minimum dissertation credit hours and 9 cognate credit hours. Through the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED)-aligned dissertation, students are able to learn real world skills

through the program.

“Its content emphasizing a holistic approach to leadership that prioritizes learning, service and advocacy,” Costner said. “Students will be learning invaluable skills in areas that include learning, leadership, organizational change, and research.”

The degree program will require a Master’s degree with a minimum GPA of 3.25 and three years of experience in leadership, supervisory, or mentorship. An interview after an initial screening will be conducted to enter the program.

“As long-time collaborators, we look forward to continuing this partnership as Winthrop offers its first professional

doctoral program,”

Deputy Superintendent of Rock Hill Schools John Jones said in a press release. “Having a pathway for employees and partners to seek an advanced degree that will be delivered in an online, flexible manner is ideal for working adults.”

Winthrop is also offering two new undergraduate degrees – the first of their kind offered in South Carolina. The Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence program is designed to allow students to develop and use artificial intelligence to solve problems. The new program will build upon current computing degrees at Winthrop. The Bachelor of Science in Financial Technology

is designed to teach students to use data-driven financial modeling and fintech tools. Both degrees still need approval from SACSCOC.

Other recent program offerings at Winthrop include a new criminal justice major, a concentration in Logistics/Supply Chain Management for Business Administration major, Concentration in Game Design for Design majors and a Educational Studies master’s degree.

For more information about the Leadership and Innovation degree from Winthrop University, visit <https://www.winthrop.edu/sgco/graduatestudies/edd-leadership-and-innovation.aspx>.

We are hiring for a Sports Editor!



If you are interested please message our Instagram account or email the Editor-in-Chief @ vilardeboc2@winthrop.edu

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Tell us what you want to see!