



Winthrop University

March 6, 2025

Rock Hill, SC

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

Hear from alumni who went to Winthrop when it was still an all-women's college and the changes the university has gone through

**BASKETBALL PHOTO STORY**

View photos from Winthrop's thrilling regular season finale win against UNC Asheville on page 6

**TARIFFS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES**

As President Trump begins his first wave of tariffs on Canada and Mexico, see what that could mean for the economy and consumers

**Local artists rally to save the creative heartbeat of Rock Hill's art community**



Outside view of the Tom S. Gettys Center, with the "Post Office and Court House" sign in view photo by Jackson Stanton



Dylan Bannister, a local artist with a studio in the Gettys Center, showing a picture of the building from 1985 photo by Jackson Stanton

**Mia Molfetta**  
 Staff Writer

Rock Hill is known for having a vibrant art scene – from the numerous murals dedicated to illustrator Vernon Grant in downtown to the Civitas statues off Dave Lyle Blvd.

However, there is one place that is essentially the heart of the art community – and it may close its doors soon.

A building in the Rock Hill Cultural District downtown at first glance looks like a relic of the past, from its fallout shelter sign and an engraving above reading "Post

Office and Courthouse." That's history, as a small sign standing on the side of the building now reads "Tom S. Gettys Center."

The Tom S. Gettys Center was built between 1931-1932 with the goal of being a federal building for the growing city of Rock Hill, as well as a part of the 1926 Federal Buildings Act. The building was originally the city's first and only functioning post office and courthouse.

The building was named after Tom S. Gettys, who was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1964-1974.

The Post Office and Courthouse were both functioning businesses for years, until the building was sold to Rock Hill in 1986. In 1987, the building was given to the arts – which is what it's been used for the past 38 years.

Now, the city is putting the historic building up for public sale, which will take away studios for many artists and an overall home for the Rock Hill art community.

Dylan Bannister, a former Winthrop alumnus who also has a studio in the building, said, "There is no alternative if this building is lost. It

heavily loved art experience from the community. Some people aren't even lovers of just pottery, we have diversity."

Within the one building there are 15 studio spaces, 3 gallery spaces, an event space (the Courtroom itself), Rock Hill Pottery Center that offers ceramic classes for the public, public drawing nights and the city's solicitors office on the top floor.

Not only do the artists favor the public, but they are also all connected to Winthrop – with a mix of alumni and current students.

"The Gettys Center is like a pipeline for

Winthrop students to find a place of belonging past college," said Bannister.

The city has been rumored of selling the Tom S Getty Center for around 14 months due to financial drainage of keeping up with the historic building. In February, it was revealed that the building was put up for public sale online – and is currently listed for \$2.26 million dollars.

If someone buys the building, the artists and vendors only get around six months to move out – there is no other space for them in Rock Hill.

"We want to work with the city, and we

want to work with the arts council to form a solution. We don't necessarily think it's malicious, but we feel as if it's an indifference with the art community," Bannister said.

The many artistic groups that call the building home include: the Rock Hill Pottery Center, Art on Main, Friday Arts Project, Don't Sweat It Inc., and the previously mentioned studio owned by Bannister and his partner Alexis Howard.

The Rock Hill Pottery Center would be particularly impacted

**Cont. on pg. 2**

**Winthrop University now recognized as research college under Carnegie Classification**

WU spent over \$3 million in research development in 2023, qualifying it as a nationally recognized research university.

**Chase Duncan**  
 Managing Editor

Winthrop University is now recognized as a research institution under the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's newest guidelines for categorizing the research activities of US colleges and universities.

The Carnegie Classification, which

has been managed by the American Council on Education (ACE) since 2022, is a nationally recognized framework for classifying the institutional diversity of higher education schools across the United States of America, according to CarnegieClassifications.edu.

Under the 2025 methodology for the

Carnegie Classification, Winthrop University is now recognized at the newly added designation for "Research Colleges and Universities," the lowest level within the classification.

This classification level includes colleges and universities that have spent \$2.5 million on research in a single year based on the institution's three-year

average (2021, 2022, 2023) or the most recent single year data for 2023, whichever is higher.

Winthrop University qualified for this classification level by spending \$3.189 million in research development during the 2023 fiscal year, according to Winthrop.edu.

Winthrop President  
**Cont. on pg. 2**



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## Police Blotter



Evi Houston  
Staff Writer

### Driver evades police

A driver on the intersection between Cherry Road and Constitution Blvd. was observed passing an emergency vehicle without stopping on Feb. 27. When an officer attempted to pull the driver over for this infraction, the vehicle sped past him. WUPD chased the individual until a supervisor terminated the attempt.

### Student reports unlawful contact with father

WUPD was called to the Thurmond Building on Feb. 26 by a student who claimed he was being harassed by his father, who came to the building. The father has a violent past and his communication, both in person and over the phone, were indicated as unlawful. A note was left by the father explaining that he had disowned his son.

### Man threatened on Alumni Drive

A man was approached on the intersection of Alumni Drive and Heritage Lane on the evening of Feb. 25 by an unknown individual who threatened to show the victim his gun and pointed toward his pocket. He never pointed the gun but instead fled the interaction, running towards Cherry Road.

### Suspicious person found walking around Winthrop Coliseum

On March 2 at 2:50 a.m., an officer received a call that there was a suspicious subject near Winthrop Coliseum. When the officer arrived and questioned the juvenile, they were not cooperative and gave them a fake name. The officers located his address and took him home and spoke with the subjects parents.

### Winthrop vehicle towed

While on patrol on March 2, an officer observed a vehicle with a Winthrop permit that was on the revoked list. The officer requested to have the vehicle towed, which it was.



### Tom S. Gettys Center sale | Cont. from pg. 1

by the sale, as it's the only vendor store in the building and is one of the only spaces in Rock Hill with the proper elements needed for pottery to happen.

"Truly, they have very specific, unique spatial needs [for] of the kilns to fire their pottery, and if the building is lost they are up a creek

it's ruining at least one small business."

Don't Sweat it Inc. is a space for local and regional artists to come together and provide shows, concerts or general events in what is still the near-perfectly intact original first courtroom in Rock Hill.

Bannister expressed



Entrance to the Rock Hill Pottery Studio and Gallery photo by Jackson Stanton

without a paddle," said Bannister.

Bannister continued as to its impact on the business that resides in the pottery center.

"That's one of the things that we're really protesting about the decision to sell this building. It's creating displacement, it's creating unemployment, and

a deep passion for the courtroom and also highlighted the gravity of the situation.

"I really want to get across that if the building is lost, if the courtroom is lost, there is no alternative for something like this."

The Courtroom is run by Mike Gentry, a Director for Winthrop's galleries. He originally had a shared studio in

the Gettys Center since 2012, and had worked for the Arts Council of York County.

Gentry began Don't Sweat it Inc in 2010 – which was originally named "Concerts at the Courtroom" – as a hosting space for locals. Over time it became Don't Sweat it Inc, a nonprofit which fostered free and low-cost local music to the Rock Hill community.

Since Covid, he is only able to do about one event per month, due to capacity and the art council's initiative to host more events in the space for a discounted price.

Gentry was not afraid to state his emotions about the current situation.

"I am disappointed. The Arts Council of York County was formerly the Rock Hill Arts Council. The nonprofit was started as an initiative by City Leaders almost 50 years ago. The relationship of Art and Rock Hill was tight and I'm wondering what happened."

He continued, "Last year I was asked what



Inside the courtroom, which photo by Jackson Stanton is now used for hosting concerts

a successful arts community needs and my response was five things: central space, leadership, merit, money and youth. The Gettys Center as a cultural arts hub offers these things. Graduates and local artists alike see this space as a place to be part of a welcoming community, and to strip that away without a conversation with the creative leaders and arts programmers of this community just seems very disrespectful."

At this moment in time, the building is still up for sale.

Gentry made it clear though that the artists couldn't care less about money for the building, but they just want a

place to call home.

"The engaged arts community aren't asking for millions of dollars to be spent today, we're asking to be allowed to continue use this space to foster Rock Hill's own unique creative community," said Gentry.

For more information surrounding the Tom S. Gettys Center, "Keeping Rock Hill Creative" is an initiative to preserve and foster Rock Hill, SC's arts & cultural community and also promote events and news surrounding the building. Dylan Bannister runs the Keeping Rock Hill Creative page on Facebook, and Instagram.

### Winthrop research college recognition | Cont. from pg. 1

Edward Serna said that research development is one of the important attributes that defines the university.

"Winthrop prides itself on the research offerings that are available to all of our students from freshmen to graduate students," Serna said. "They conduct important and impressive research alongside our award-winning faculty and staff. It's one of the hallmarks of the Winthrop experience. We look forward to the exciting research opportunities ahead as we are recognized by the American Council on Education

for the valuable work conducted by our faculty, staff and students."

Winthrop's new recognition for its research development came after ACE and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced that a new "Research Colleges and Universities" designation would be created for the 2025 Carnegie Classifications for the institutions that do not offer many or any doctoral programs.

Prior to this, the Carnegie Classification guidelines sorted higher education institutions based mostly on the highest

level of degree it awarded students, such as Doctoral, Masters, Bachelors, etc. The new system now recognizes institutions based on a variety of criteria such as size, location and the types of programs it has.

Timothy Knowles, president of the Carnegie Foundation, said the most recent changes to the Carnegie Classification guidelines allow more universities to be recognized for the research they create, according to CarnegieClassifications.edu.

"For five decades, colleges and universities'

reputations have been defined, in large measure, by the amount of research underway and the highest degree conferred," Knowles said. "Clearly, these are incomplete measures. They neither reflect the strength or diversity of the postsecondary sector."

In 1970, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education developed a classification of colleges and universities to support its program of research and policy analysis. The framework was first published in 1973 and has been updated every three years since to

reflect changes among colleges and universities.

Winthrop University will offer its first doctoral program, an Ed.D. in leadership and innovation, beginning in the Fall 2025 semester.

Winthrop has also applied for approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to be moved from a Level IV (highest degree level offered – educational specialist) institution to a Level V (three or fewer doctoral programs) institution, according to Winthrop.edu.

## Tariff turmoil: Trump's war on trade

Summarizing Trump's tariff plans that are leaving voters divided.

Kyan Feser  
Staff Writer

President Trump has stirred controversy over his upcoming tariff policies, and people are concerned about possible consequences.

On Feb. 1, Trump officially promised to implement 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico, alongside plans to double China's existing 10% tariff.

These tariffs aim to curb the American border crisis, as stated by a same-day press release from the White House. While primarily aimed at Mexico, the release cites border encounters in the North as well.

Tariffs are a major focus of the Trump

administration, and play key roles in Trump's other missions. Though, what exactly are they?

Tariffs are taxes charged on imported goods, often adding percentages of the item's value onto the product. They discourage people from buying foreign products, potentially spurring domestic production and hurting the economies of foreign nations.

By restricting access to America's market, Trump is incentivizing Canada and Mexico to strengthen their borders, only revoking the tariffs when "drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens

stop this Invasion of our Country," as stated in the press release.

Trump is no stranger to economics, but his bold approach towards worldly affairs is worrying to some people, according to data from a Morning Consult survey.

This survey, conducted in January, recorded what voters prioritize in the Trump administration, providing split results.

While 30% of Democrats support tariffs on China, only 23% support tariffs on Canada and Mexico. Similarly, 78% of Republicans support tariffs on China, but a lesser 68% of Republicans support

tariffs on Canada and Mexico.

Many citizens fear price increases nationwide, which worsens an already prevalent inflation problem.

"Less than 1 in 4 voters think imposing tariffs on imported goods should be a "top priority" for his administration, compared with far more who elevate cutting health care costs (73%) or the price of goods and services (79%), a focal point of voters' self-expressed 2024 ire," said Eli Yokley, a Morning Consult politics analyst.

Additionally, Trump is now threatening the EU with similar 25%

tariffs, which he plans to announce soon.

Trump confirmed that the 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico will take effect on March 4, following a post on Truth Social. The 10% increase on China's existing tariffs will similarly be enacted.

On March 3, President Trump gave a press conference officially announcing the tariffs on Mexico and Canada would go into effect on March 4 at 12:01 A.M. At the time of writing this, the tariffs have gone into effect.

While unconfirmed, the proposed EU tariffs aim to take effect sometime after April 1.

# The Johnsonian recently took home five awards from the South Carolina Press Associate Awards.

Congrats to the following winners:

Under 10,000 Division:

Staff- First Place General Excellence

Clark Vilardebo- Lee Harter Collegiate

Journalist of the Year

Sera Crookes- First Place Photo Story

Zachary Bell- Third Place News Story

Clark Vilardebo- Third Place Page One Design



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## Winthrop students and faculty attend conference for working with children with disabilities

From February 27 to March 1, Winthrop CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) attended the annual South Carolina CEC Conference in Greenville.



Winthrop's Council for Exceptional Children at the conference

photo via Riley Brodie

**Riley Brodie**  
AC&T Editor

The Council for Exceptional Children is known as “the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.” CEC has both student and professional chapters, and holds both state and national conferences.

The majority of the conference revolved around educational sessions given by students and professionals and had the opportunity to participate in speed interviews with different districts.

In addition, students gave poster presentations on research they conducted. Two Winthrop students, Amani Townes and Samantha Pean, tied in first place for these presentations.

On the last day of the conference, SCCEC hosted a policy panel- a discussion regarding new state and federal policies. Multiple concerns were presented during the meeting- including the potential removal of Section 504, and the lack of mental health support given to public educators.

15 Winthrop students attended the state conference, including the entirety of the executive board, along with multiple Winthrop faculty.

Multiple advisors and participants took the time to comment on their experiences with the conference.

Jennifer Holmes, the WinthropLIFE Faculty Coordinator, shared information about her presentation, saying, “I presented on parent training as a related service on IEPs and its implications for post-secondary outcomes. Parent training is

one of the most underutilized related services and is critical to student success. There are many benefits to offering parent training as a related service, including decreased challenging behaviors and increased student progress.”

She continued, noting, “There is little to no research on how parent training specifically impacts postsecondary outcomes.”

Dr. Clausen, Winthrop’s CEC chapter advisor and an assistant Special Education professor, shared, “Beaufort County School District reached out with this comment: “We were so impressed with the caliber of students Winthrop is producing. From their posters to the interview, they are all going to become stellar educators.”

Ali Kowalski is a senior educational studies major with

a concentration in Special Education. They currently serve as the Service Chair for Winthrop CEC, and they’re additionally a Macfeat Laboratory Teaching Assistant and a Step Ahead RBT. Kowalski has plans to become a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analysis), in the future.

Kowalski gave two presentations during the conferences. The first presentation was Early Elementary Inclusion and the second presentation was Behavior in Early Elementary.

In regards to their time presenting, Kowalski shared, “I made a connection with Michelle Jones during my own session about Early Elementary Inclusion & Strategies during the presentation I left time for participants to discuss what inclusion looks in their school and how it affects different stakeholders

and she was an active participant during this and even talked to me after about her own experiences at her school in Dorchester.”

Kowalski additionally attended many sessions, however, the SCPI pre-sessions stood out to them the most.

They stated, “They discussed Early Elementary inclusion, they talked about different statistics such as expulsion and suspension rates for these students and ways to promote inclusion and implant different activities in the classroom.”

Evelyn Conran, a senior education studies major with a concentration in special education, is currently a Teaching Fellow and member of CEC – with multiple on-campus jobs and plans to be an elementary resource special education teacher in the future.

Conran led one

session during the conference, which was a presentation pertaining to personal research on multilingual learners with special education. Conran felt that the most challenging aspects of the presentation were “low response rates and inaccessible SPED directors for public school districts.”

Conran shared a word of advice to future attendees of the conference, stating, “I would advise them to go to as many sessions as possible so they can gain as much knowledge as possible.”

Diego Rodriguez is a senior educational studies major. He is currently a Resident Assistant, Teaching Fellow, Call Me MISTER and Student Ambassador, with plans to be an elementary school teacher in the future.

Rodriguez was particularly engaged

**Cont. on pg. 7**

## Alumnae reflect on their time attending the all-women’s Winthrop College

Carolyn Hallman ‘47 and Linda Williams ‘64, ‘69, ‘80, go into great detail as to the customs when they attended and how much the school has changed.

**Evi Houston**  
Staff Writer

March is celebrated as Women’s History Month, a time to learn about the gendered experiences, struggles, and successes of women of the past which have played a part in shaping our collective history.

At Winthrop University, where students are living and learning on the grounds of a historically women’s college, there is no shortage of women’s history. The dormitories and academic buildings still in use today are a testament to the growth of women’s educational attainment and the solidarity forged here between Winthrop girls so many years ago.

Understanding major events in feminist history and well known figures and advocates is an important part of honoring women’s

history, but one of the best ways to celebrate the month is to simply listen to the experiences of senior women in one’s life, whether that be a relative or mentor. Female graduates of Winthrop University, especially prior to its introduction of male students in 1974, can certainly contribute to this knowledge of women’s history within education.

About a five minutes’ drive from campus is a senior living community called Westminster Towers, where two Winthrop alumni, Carolyn Hallman ‘47 and Linda Williams ‘64, ‘69, ‘80, live today. Their stories of college life at Winthrop University seventy-seven and sixty years ago, respectively, provide insight not only into the history of this institution, but into the history of women, their access to education,

and the value that an all-female community once provided to so many Eagles.

Carolyn Hallman came to Winthrop University from Horry County, South Carolina in the 1940s to study French and English. As a student, she resided in Breazeale Hall and Bancroft Hall, both of which are no longer in use as dormitories.

Linda Williams, a member of Winthrop’s current Alumni Executive Board, began her studies at the university in 1960 where she majored in education. She went on to teach and later became an assistant principal in the Rock Hill area. Williams also lived in Breazeale Hall, moving to Margaret Nance Hall as an upperclassman, where she worked as a house counselor.

During Hallman’s freshman year at Winthrop, the “Blue

Line” tradition proceeded as it had in the 19th century, with the entire student body walking to their church of choice in downtown Rock Hill on the first Sunday of the year, all in blue dresses. She particularly remembered wearing heels during this event, saying, “You know, you wouldn’t have to wear heels nowadays, but we thought we had to wear them then, and it nearly killed us wearing heels.”

As a women’s college, there was a strong sense of community among students, who spent their time together going to movies, walking downtown or to the lake, sharing meals and picnics, sunbathing and setting up beauty shops out of their dorm rooms.

During Hallman’s time at the university, “They had a movie every Saturday night,

they were really good movies, and they were free. We didn’t always take advantage of some of these things that, you know, we should have done back then,” she said.

Both women also discussed walking to the Pix Theater on Oakland Avenue to go see a movie with their friends.

Williams recounted sunbathing on campus, saying “The whole roof of McLaurin was lined with people as soon as it got warm enough to get out.” Hallman had similar experiences, and while she did not particularly enjoy it, it was worth the tan.

The alumnae looked back fondly on the family-style dining experience in McBryde Hall, which was of limited options but good quality. Hallman humorously noted, “Even with all the walking we did, we gained weight.” For

dessert, they enjoyed tubs of ice cream and sugar pie, Williams’s favorite.

Hallman and Williams additionally shared positive feelings about the Winthrop canteen, which was originally located in Tillman Hall.

Hallman said, “I loved the canteen. You’re studying hard, you go over and get a hot chocolate or whatever for a dime, and it was a refreshing time, and just to get away from your room for a while.”

Hallman emphasized the value of staying on campus for the weekend and spending time with her fellow students, something she feels today’s students lack.

“I think they miss a lot by going home every weekend, because we learned a lot Saturday mornings by walking around with friends

**Cont. on pg. 7**

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## Winthrop's 11th annual LIFT conference: Recapping a day dedicated to leadership and learning

**Adriane Alston**  
Editorial Editor

On Saturday, March 1, Winthrop University hosted its 11th annual LIFT Conference, an event dedicated to equipping students and faculty with essential leadership skills.

LIFT, which stands for Leadership Institute for First-Timers, is a free, full-day conference designed to help attendees refine their leadership abilities, broaden their perspectives, and strengthen their professional networks.

This year's theme, "Quarter Century Era: Shaping Tomorrow's Vision," emphasized the increasing role of technology in leadership and how individuals can prepare for the future.

The event began with an introduction by Provost Dr. Sebastian Van Delden, setting the stage for a day of impactful discussions and learning. The keynote speech was delivered by Learning Design and Technology

Program Director, Dr. Marshall Jones.

Throughout the day, students and faculty participated in various sessions tailored to different aspects of leadership, communication, and digital innovation.

One of the most highly discussed sessions was Cheating the A.I. Scandal, led by Mr. Collins Cornwell, the Director of Student Conduct. With artificial intelligence becoming an integral part of academia, this session provided a behind-the-scenes look at how professors and the Conduct Office identify and address plagiarism in the age of AI. Students walked away with a better understanding of academic integrity and the ethical implications of using AI-generated content.

Another standout session was Your Vibe, Your Tribe: Developing Your Leadership Brand by Michael Szemann, Associate Director for Employer Engagement at the Winthrop Center

for Career Development and Internships. This interactive workshop focused on networking strategies, personal branding, and making a lasting impact in professional spaces.

Safe Zones, presented by the Diversity Peer Educators (DPEs). This session explored gender identity and sexual orientation terminology, fostering an inclusive space where attendees could ask questions without fear of judgment.

A particularly memorable aspect of this presentation was the Gender Unicorn, a visual tool that illustrates the complexities of gender identity, expression, and attraction. The session emphasized the importance of respectful communication and inclusivity, equipping participants with the knowledge to better engage with individuals of diverse identities.

Beyond the informative sessions, the LIFT Conference provided invaluable

networking opportunities. I personally gained over five new LinkedIn connections in just one day, a testament to how impactful this event was for professional development. The conference wasn't just about learning—it was about building relationships, exchanging ideas, and preparing for the future as leaders.

While this year's LIFT Conference was undeniably a success,

attendance remains an area for improvement.

Of the 80+ registered participants, roughly only 60 attended—a strong turnout, but one that could be even higher given the knowledge and opportunities available. Kanisha Rollings, Kinyata Brown and the Student Engagement Office did a phenomenal job organizing this event, ensuring that every session was engaging and valuable.

However, more students should take advantage of this opportunity in the future.

Winthrop's LIFT Conference is more than just an event; it's a chance to refine your leadership skills, expand your professional network and gain insights that can shape your future. If you missed this year's conference, don't make the same mistake — your leadership journey awaits!



LIFT conference attendees and staff

photo via Adriane Alston

## Man on the street: Indivisible Fountain Park protest

**Gabriela Griggs**  
Staff Writer

Winthrop alumna Marie McDow (71') was just one of the many Rock Hill citizens who gathered on the streets of the city's downtown Monday afternoon to protest, frustrated with the new policies and actions the Trump administration has taken since inauguration in January.

"I came because I wanted to connect with other people who feel the way I feel. The Trump administration is not my idea of the way our government works. My sign that I had said 'No Kings in America,' and I was horrified by the Oval Office meeting with Zelenskyy. I feel like we should be a part of NATO and we should help our allies against dictators like Putin."

Vickie Holt, the Democratic candidate

for District 15 seat on the South Carolina State Senate in 2020, said she came out because of her love of and fear for the country and its democracy.

Indivisible, a grassroots movement project that has multiple groups all across America, hosted its first of four protests at Rock Hill's own Fountain Park this Monday on March 3.

The protests will be hosted every Monday throughout the month of March from 3-4pm at Fountain Park, located in downtown Rock Hill and 1.1 miles away from Winthrop University.

"First of all, it's because I believe in democracy," Holt said. "We are on the cusp of the 250th anniversary of the dawning of this democracy, and instead of feeling as though it is getting stronger, that we have something to

look forward to, I am scared. I think a lot of people are scared and the things that are being done are so very undemocratic and that needs to change."

Alongside her expression on democracy, Holt also noted the lack of BIPOC presence as a shortcoming for the organization, and expressed a desire to fix it.

"We need to get the word out that being quiet is pretty much complicity," Holt said.

Siblings Allan and Judy Worrell shared similar reasons for their appearance at Fountain Park.

"In a nutshell, I'm trying to stop World War 3 from happening," Allan Worrell said.

"I'm terrified that we're losing our rule of law, and that law doesn't mean anything anymore; when the president can just go do

whatever he wants and the Supreme Court is basically allowing him," Judy Worrell said.

Judy Worrell also shared discomfort with how widely uniformed she felt Americans are when it comes to the Electoral College and other aspects of their government.

Misinformation and drastic action by the President are two of the biggest motivators for locals' presence at the protest.

Viera Hammond, Chair of the York County Democratic Women's Council, said she was protesting in downtown Rock Hill against the Trump administration's retrogressive policies.

"They're taking us back to the old ways, and [that] is not what the country was built on," Hammond said. "Everybody's earned [their right] to be here. There should be equity and diversity. That is what [our country] is built on. I'm also here for women's rights. Without women, where would you be?"

Similarly to Holt, protester Joy Robinson shared fears of Republican control and how it's beginning to transform the American concept and application of democracy.

"I just fear that, if we don't stand up, even if it wasn't Trump, it's not going to stop. I don't

know where it would stop if we don't stand up ourselves and try to stop it," Robinson said.

Protest attendee Susan Mann said she showed up because she fears for the country's democracy as well.

"My main reason [for being here] is that I see our democracy at risk," Mann said. "There are people that are scapegoating and limiting the rights of certain groups of people or turning people against [certain groups of people] so that they can have more power. I see an accumulation of power to the Executive Branch, by overriding and impoundment. I also see... a willingness to ignore the judicial branch [that leads to] a more powerful Executive Branch than what our Founding Fathers wanted. They were very adamant they didn't want someone to have the power [of a king] and Trump wants that. Trump wants to be an autocrat and he has been fairly upfront about that, that he wants to be a dictator, and that is not who we are as a country."

While most attendees came out of personal, specific issues they were witnessing, some showed up for the presence of those who may want to, but could not due to outside circumstances.

Mental health

therapist Kayla LaPier came to the protest with her wife Gwen LaPier.

Gwen LaPier said she was personally inspired to attend the protest after a disagreement with a coworker over celebrating months like Black History month and Pride left her feeling alarmed.

"We gotta do something about it, because when you realize there's really people out there like that, it's scary," said Gwen LaPier. "You kind of hear about it on TikTok or social media, and when it's actually face-to-face with you, it's a little bit nerve wracking."

"I'm a mental health therapist, and I think it's really crucial [to show up] for people who cannot voice their opinions publicly," Kayla LaPier said. "As a queer therapist myself, [with a] demographic that is primarily queer people, I want to make sure I'm representing them and [getting] their voices heard."

Over the course of March, on Monday's from the hours of 3-4 p.m., Fountain Park will be home to a peaceful protest from individuals who are wanting nothing more than a government that is truly representative of not only its citizens, but the truths it was founded on.



Protesters joining together at Fountain Park

photo by Clark Vilardebo

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## Winthrop Esports teams continues to dominate following Regional Champion Qualifiers

Winthrop's Overwatch 2 and Super Smash Bros. teams competed over the weekend, setting the stage to compete in the Collegiate Esports Commissioner Cup in Arlington, Texas on May 5.

Omar Woods  
Staff Writer

Esports, a scene that was once only relegated to local meet-ups, has now become a national phenomenon that has now seeped its way into universities across the country.

Winthrop's Esports program in particular has proven to be one of the most dominant of these college esports programs ever since its creation in 2019 where the program earned a few of their first championships in the video games Rocket League and League of Legends. This dominance has continued following their recent appearance in the CECC 2025 South Regionals.

This year, two of Winthrop's esports teams competed in

the championship qualifiers: the Overwatch 2 team and Super Smash Bros team.

The Overwatch 2 team was able to obtain a victory in the CECC South Regional that occurred from March 1-2. In all of their bracket match-ups, the Overwatch 2 team won their games 3-0 in each round.

Kyle Rakauskas, or "Rakattack", is an Overwatch 2 player who specializes in the support role. He shared his experience following their appearance in the qualifiers.

"We had to play a few divisions. We played a lot of games against schools in the south. We went in with confidence, won as many games as we

could, and got the top seed," Rakauskas said. "For this tournament, it has not been difficult quite yet."

The Super Smash Bros team of Winthrop Esports also saw great success in the CECC 2025 regionals. In this tournament, they ended up winning the entire tournament by obtaining a 3-1 victory in the grand finals against Arlington.

One of the players from the Super Smash Bros Team, Dylan Dunn – also known as Anarchy – detailed the teams run in the regionals.

"It was fine, but it was a little bit different because we didn't have the people we used for some of the teams that we had last time," Dunn explained. "We made it work though.

We came out on top in the end."

Just like any other sport, players and coaches have their own personal maxims and mindsets that help guide them to ultimate victories. Eric Perez, also known as Wheats, is a coach for the Overwatch 2 team and credits their victory to a few key points.

"The skills are all in the game," Perez

explained. "But I don't think that's as important as the dedication and the discipline to keep grinding."

A player from the Super Smash Bros, C.J Wiley – also known as CJFroze – when asked about what it takes to make it that far in a tournament mentioned being able to take criticism as a major proponent.

"I think you need to be open to criticism," Wiley explained. "Be able to communicate with other people in your field and the game you play."

Following the regional, both of these teams will make their appearance in the CECC tournament that takes place May 5 in Arlington, Texas.



Dylan Dunn competing at the CECC national conference in Spring 2024

photo by Max Prosser

## Photo Story: Winthrop's thrilling regular season finale and Senior Night victory over UNC Asheville

Winthrop men's basketball team beat the #2 seed in the Big South 103-90 on March 1, in their last game before their Big South Tournament game on March 7.

Jackson Stanton  
Photographer



K.J. Doucet (#12) putting up a layup against UNC Asheville players

photo by Jackson Stanton



Winthrop players helping up guard Kasen Harrison (#11)

photo by Jackson Stanton



Guard Ryan Jolley (#2) shooting a corner three

photo by Jackson Stanton



Senior K.J. Doucet (#12) facing Winthrop's student section and cheer squad

photo by Jackson Stanton

Sports Editor: Now hiring!  
Contact @vilardeboc2@winthrop.edu

March 6, 2025

## Winthrop students attend CEC conference | Cont. from pg. 4

during the policy panel, sharing, “I found the policy panel very insightful. As a general education pre-service teacher, I am not too knowledgeable of the specifics when it comes to special education but with an open discussion I was able to learn more from others and gain inspiration to do my own research considering topics discussed. Specifically, the “Texas vs Becerra” lawsuit. These are serious issues that were discussed in the panel and I am glad they were as now I can educate myself on important topics facing education.”

Rodriguez also greatly appreciated the session “Riding out the escalation cycle-Crisis Intervention

Techniques for Early Childhood Educators.”

“This session was very impactful, as the presenter not only made the content relatable, but she was able to express everything well in depth with great explanation. Considering, one of my biggest challenges as an educator is discipline, it was helpful hearing how to handle behavior in a classroom,” said Rodriguez.

His biggest takeaway from the conference was, “Education is such an important concept within our society. Regardless of your role within education, as long as we can come together to better support the needs of our future

generation is what matters.”

Amani Townes, a Senior Special Education major, is currently a Teaching Fellow, Close Scholar and WinthropLIFE mentor, with plans to be a Self-Contained Moderate Classroom high school teacher after graduation.

Townes led a poster presentation entitled, “Misrepresentation of Multilingual Learners in Special Education”.

She stated, “This project assesses the ways multilingual learners are misrepresented in the special education system, hypothesizing that multilingual learners are misrepresented within special education due to biases in student assessment results and miscommunication with children and their families. I was inspired by my family history and the courses I took for an ESOL [English for Speakers of Other Languages] endorsement.”

Townes was displeased by conversations that took place during the Policy Panel.

“My concern was about the response to the discussion of mental health. There seemed to be more emphasis on student mental health than the well being of their teachers. One topic that was not discussed was

DEI and the issues of possibly being reported based on people’s points of views.”

Townes most enjoyed attending the session entitled, “It takes a Village: Utilizing Teacher Assistants in Special Education Classroom,” stating, “The idea that was most impactful to me was that TA’s, just like teachers and administrators, should be learned from and may have more experience than us. Additionally, TA’s are with the kids longer in the day than teachers are so establishing that respect from the kids to them is essential.”

Townes advised first time CEC conference attendees to, “Be open minded and choose to go to sessions that you are unfamiliar with to get the most out of the experience.”

Ella Everett, a sophomore Special Education major, is currently a Teaching Fellow, member of CEC, and Theater for All volunteer. They have plans to be a Special Education major after graduation. During the conference, they co-planned a poster presentation entitled, “Parenting-How Different Parenting Styles Impact Children with EBDs.”

During the Policy Panel, Everett also had some reservations.

“I was concerned

with how mental health for teachers and students was discussed at the panel. One individual on the panel seemed hesitant on the responsibility of school districts to provide mental health resources. I think at a conference like CEC mental health should be expressed as important especially when many teachers work with students with mental illness or EBDs.”

On the other hand, the President of SC CEC, Dr. Tiffany Hollis, gave a speech Everett found to be particularly impactful, “One thing that stood out to me was the President of CEC’s speech – she shared her perspective on working with a student and advocating for him throughout his growing up. Now he has a successful career.”

They continued, “Many people didn’t believe in him and thought he would go to jail, but now they have been proved wrong. She shared the importance of always advocating for our students and how it is important to teach them to advocate for themselves as well. She expressed the value in seeing the potential in each child.”

Everett most enjoyed the session “Making Accommodations and Modifications Work for General Ed” by

Jacquel Thomas and Langlee Morrell. “The session stood out to me because it showed ways to support students in their least restrictive environment. It was engaging and informative. It also included Jacquel Thomas, who is from Rock Hill, and she spoke a bit on her new book, “Jay’s Spectrum of Colors,” said Everett.

Everett recommended first time CEC conference attendees to “Make the most out of the conference. There are so many connections to be made with the people there. For me, as a future SPED teacher, there are so many professionals in attendance doing what I plan to do. Talking to them and going to their sessions can help you prepare and build confidence in the field – I always leave with more ideas about teaching and expanded views.”

From March 12th to March 15th, a small group of Winthrop students and faculty will be attending the National CEC conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

All Winthrop students, regardless of major, are welcome to become CEC members. For any inquiries regarding the organization, contact “cec@mailbox.winthrop.edu”.



Emily Ellis, Winthrop’s CEC President photo by Riley Brodie

## Alumnae reflect on their time | Cont. from pg. 4

and getting together with our friends [...] we’d walk out to the farm and buy some ice cream.”

Both women remembered walking to the local creamery in Rock Hill, with Hallman recounting a specific weekend in which she and three other friends purchased a carton of ice cream for one dollar and later realized they had nothing to eat it with. The ladies improvised by tearing up pieces of the cardboard lid to use as spoons, finishing the entire carton.

“We did all kinds of crazy things. We didn’t have much money, yeah, and so you had to, you know, do everything together,” Hallman said

A substantial difference between the Winthrop of the 1940s and 1960s and the school we know today is the amount of administrative control placed on student life and behavior.

When Hallman was a student, uniforms were still required, which she admiringly looked back on.

“I kind of liked it. Now, we fussed at first, but it didn’t

take so many clothes. Nobody was outdoing anybody else, and it was great.” Along with the standard navy and white which all uniforms were made out of, Hallman liked to personalize her outfits with red and green collars and belts to stand out.

Additional university policies students may find unusual today included Saturday classes, sign-out sheets for leaving campus, required weekly assemblies, and hall monitors which proctored student behavior while in their dormitory. Curfews were limited to ten and eleven o’clock each Saturday “date night” for Hallman and Williams, respectively.

Sundays at Winthrop were even more strict in the 1940s, as students had to remain in their dorms after six o’clock and were not served dinner but instead received a bagged lunch in which “You had an apple and a sandwich or maybe a pack of crackers. And that was it,” Hallman explained.

Taboos regarding smoking and drinking have also changed over

the years. Hallman recounted hearing rumors that “if they caught you drinking, they took you home in the limo.” Winthrop continued to take a stand against alcohol during Williams’s college days, where alcohol was not allowed within a 25 mile radius of the university.

Attitudes towards smoking did change as it became more accepted nationally, and as for the class of 1947, “You had to send a thing home to get permission to do all kinds of things. And that was one of them,” according to Hallman.

Williams had a different experience, saying, “Well everybody smoked when I was there in our freshman dorm. When we would leave the cafeteria, many times there would be cigarette salesmen out there with little packs of Marlboro cigarettes.”

Hallman cherished the dances of her college days, but noted that there were so few men on or near campus that high school boys across Oakland Ave. at Winthrop Training School, now the Withers Building, were

recruited as dates.

“They’d be three or four years younger, but they danced like crazy, and they were just so happy to be there and, you know, and that’s who we danced with. You had nobody else to dance with,” she said.

Williams especially enjoyed the dances and productions students put on throughout the year as well, such as the Junior-Senior, which she described as “wonderful”. She also reminisced about “Classes Night”, a yearly competition where each class would work together to create their own production. “It made people work together, especially when you were freshmen. You found out who your leaders were, you found out the creativity,” Williams said. The class of 1964 repeatedly got second place until finally, for their senior year, they won the competition with a production called “Metamorphosis,” dressing up in elaborate butterfly costumes to depict the biological process.

This metaphor of Metamorphosis lived on, and has become a

defining experience of the class of 1964, which they decided to impart in a statue donated for their 50th anniversary in 2014.

Most students see “Metamorphosis” on their walk to class or across campus, as she sits on a bench along Scholar’s Walk, holding an open book with a butterfly coming out of it.

Williams relayed that this statue symbolizes the transformations which have taken place at Winthrop, namely integration and Winthrop’s change to coeducational, and is meant as a tribute to the college’s origin as an all women’s college.

Today, these alumni are back to communal living at Westminster Towers, where they have both stayed for about three years.

Hallman found this to be a good fit for her so that she could have less concerns of living and taking care of her house alone after her husband passed, saying, “it’s a good place to be. It is. It’s safe. That’s what I think about. It’s safe. And I have good heat, air conditioning, I don’t have to worry about anything like that.” Williams has found the community suitable for her lifestyle as well, as it encourages her to be more sociable and reduces daily stressors.



Historical photo from 1965 photo credit/Winthrop University

March 6, 2025



Have a story idea or suggestion for us? Tear this out and leave it in the box outside the student publications office (DiGS 104).

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