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## Library Dean Selected for Presidential Appointment



Mark Herring

ROCK HILL, S.C. - President George W. Bush announced this week the nomination of **Mark Herring**, dean of library services at Winthrop University's **Dacus Library**, for a five-year term on the National Museum and Library Services Board.

The term began last month.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services** is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its 24-member board meets several times a year and makes recommendations how to spend the organization's more than \$270 million budget. There are other events members are expected to attend, either at the White House or the Eisenhower Building, adjacent to the White House. At times the President and the First Lady may be in attendance.

The institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The institute works at the national level to coordinate with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.

"I am thrilled by the appointment, as much as I am honored by the recognition. This is truly an important milestone for me and for Dacus," Herring said. "This says a great deal about the prestige of this institution. Winthrop's well-known excellence has as much to do with this appointment as any of my accomplishments."

One of the more difficult aspects for Herring was keeping the news a secret while the Federal Bureau of Investigation completed a thorough background check.

Herring also is a member of the South Carolina Library Association, the American Library Association and the Association of College and Research Libraries. He is the author of "Fool's Gold" about the Internet, "The Pro-Life/Choice Debate" and "Genetic Engineering" and a popular poster about "10 Reasons Why the Internet is no Substitute for a Library" as well as two books on library fund-raising.

He came to Winthrop in 1999 from Oklahoma Baptist University where he was dean of library services. His bachelor and master of library science degrees are from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and his doctorate degree from East Tennessee State University.

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