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MUN Students Compete in Fall and Prepare in Spring for Own Conference

Winthrop University

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MUN Students Compete in Fall and Prepare in Spring for Own Conference

Quick Facts

- As the program has evolved, the Department of Political Science has formalized a series of courses in the last few years so the college students could earn credit for taking on leadership positions in the Winthrop conference and to prepare for collegiate competitions.
- To date more than 2,000 Winthrop students and 10,000 high school students have participated in the conferences since its inception in the 1970s.



Winthrop's Model United Nations team at the University of North Carolina Charlotte conference.

ROCK HILL, S.C. – The Winthrop students who will run the **XXXVIII Model United Nations Conference** on March 26-28 begin meeting as a class this week.

One of the university's signature events, the **Winthrop Model UN** allows college students to act as delegates for the three-day event on campus and to work with high school students from the Carolinas who are assigned countries and present resolutions during the event. The Winthrop students prepare for the conference through a spring semester political science course on the United Nations, while top students head up the **Secretariat** to plan and run the conference.

Winthrop's program was the **first of its kind in the country** to combine participation of the college students and high school students. To date more than 2,000 Winthrop students and 10,000 high school students have participated in the conferences since its inception in the 1970s.

As the program has evolved, the **Department of Political Science** has formalized a series of courses in the last few years so the college students could earn credit for taking on leadership positions in the Winthrop conference and to prepare for collegiate competitions. "The results show the idea has worked and is another way Winthrop students embody global learning and civic engagement," said **Karen Kedrowski**, dean of the **College of Arts and Sciences**.

Last fall, Winthrop students competed against their peers in two college-level United Nations conferences.

"We won awards at the University of North Carolina Charlotte and at the much bigger and more demanding conference, the Southern Regional Model United Nations in November in Atlanta," said **Chris Van Aller**, a professor of political science who directs the **Model United Nations**.

Among some of the awards:

- Outstanding Delegation Award**, UNIDO, Peru, delegate **Allie Molinari**. She was invited to help administer the Southern Regional program in Atlanta as a chair next year, quite an honor as usually undergraduates do not serve.
- Outstanding Delegation Award**, UNIDO, South Africa, delegates **Stephen Benitez** and **Elizabeth Yost**, Atlanta conference.
- Distinguished Delegation Award for Azerbaijan**: **Sarah Cohen**, **Brandi Geurkink**, **Leo**

Gonzalez, Anthony Jablonecki and Josh Hollington, presented at UNC Charlotte.

• **Geurkink** and **Cohen** won an **Outstanding Delegate Award** in their committees during the UNC Charlotte event. **Hollington, JC Dougherty, Jablonecki, Brianna Bagwell, Benitez** and **Yost** also won **Distinguished Delegate** awards at the event, while **Gonzalez** won an **honorable mention**.

• The **Winthrop team** was given a **best position papers award** for the entire delegation.

For more information, contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or e-mail her at longshawj@winthrop.edu.

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