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Winthrop Cited for Weaving Community Engagement in Its College Fabric

Winthrop University

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Quick Facts

- The designation means that Winthrop has an institutional focus on community engagement that is ingrained in campus life.
- To be selected, Winthrop's Center for Career and Civic Engagement staff members provided descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement that showed alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices.



Debra Boyd

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – The [Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](#) has selected Winthrop University to receive its **2015 Community Engagement Classification**.

The designation means that Winthrop has an **institutional focus on community engagement** that is ingrained in campus life. This classification was first offered in 2006 as part of an extensive restructuring of **The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education**, and Winthrop was first certified in 2008.

To be selected, Winthrop's [Center for Career and Civic Engagement](#) staff members provided descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement that showed alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices.

"Only a small percentage of institutions receive this designation," said [Acting President Debra Boyd](#). "We are very proud that Winthrop is an institution that values and consistently demonstrates community engagement. Our faculty and staff work hard to infuse the Winthrop experience with countless opportunities for students to learn how to become active citizens and to become leaders in their professions and communities."

Central to the classification process is a "**documentation framework**" developed by a team of advisors to help applicants (and reviewers) assess the nature of an institution's community engagement commitments.

Winthrop's service highlights include the [NetSCOPE](#) teacher education grant, the [Social & Behavioral Research Lab](#) in the Department of Political Science, and the [Rocha school project](#) in Nicaragua.

Carnegie officials said colleges and universities can have a significant impact on quality of life far beyond their campuses.

"The importance of this elective classification is borne out by the response of so many campuses that have demonstrated their deep engagement with local, regional, national and global communities," said [John Saltmarsh](#), director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education. "These are campuses that are improving teaching and learning, producing research that makes a difference in communities, and revitalizing their civic and academic missions."

In addition to the Carnegie classification, the [President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll](#) has recognized Winthrop for nine years.

For more information on the Carnegie Foundation's community engagement classification, visit the [organization's web site](#).

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