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Winthrop University, "President of Duke Nuclear to Speak at Commencement" (2006). Winthrop News 2006. 10
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President of Duke Nuclear to Speak at Commencement

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Ruth Shaw, group executive of public policy and president of Duke Nuclear for Duke Energy, will be the keynote speaker at Winthrop’s spring undergraduate commencement on May 6.

She will address nearly 640 students who will receive their degrees during the 11 a.m. ceremony at Winthrop Coliseum and will be given an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Shaw, who provides executive leadership for nuclear strategy and operations, environmental policy and other public policy issues, was named to her current position in April. Before that, she was president and chief executive officer for Duke Power from 2003 to 2006.

When Shaw arrived at Duke 14 years ago, she held the title of vice president of corporate communications. She has since served as senior vice president of corporate resources, Duke Energy’s executive vice president and chief administrative officer, and as president of The Duke Energy Foundation from 1997-2003. Before joining Duke, Shaw was president of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte from 1986-1992 and previously was president of El Centro College in Dallas, Texas.

A member of the boards of directors of Edison Electric Institute, the Nuclear Energy Institute and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, Shaw also chairs the boards of the Charlotte Research Institute and the Foundation for the Carolinas. She is a member of the N.C. Economic Development Board, the Palmetto Business Forum, the S.C. Manufacturers Alliance and the S.C. Council on Competitiveness. She is a director of the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina, the Dow Chemical Company and of Wachovia Corporation.

A native of Danville, Va., Shaw received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from East Carolina University. She also received her Ph.D. in higher educational administration from the University of Texas-Austin, where she was a University Fellow. She is married to Colin S. Shaw and has two sons.

Winthrop will hold its graduate commencement ceremony on May 4 to honor the nearly 155 graduate students who will receive their degrees. The ceremony will be at 7 p.m. in Byrnes Auditorium.

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