Assessment Expert George Kuh to Deliver Undergraduate Commencement Address

Winthrop University

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George D. Kuh, director of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), will deliver the keynote address during the May 5 undergraduate commencement ceremony at the Winthrop Coliseum. At the 11 a.m. ceremony nearly 650 graduates will receive degrees.

A leading authority on higher education assessment, Kuh currently serves as director of the Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University-Bloomington and teaches in the Indiana University graduate programs in higher education and student affairs as the Chancellor’s Professor of Higher Education.

In his role at the Center for Postsecondary Research, Kuh oversees three programs that seek to understand and increase college student engagement, including the College Student Experience Questionnaire, NSSE and the NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice. NSSE asks first-year and senior students about their experiences at more than 600 colleges and universities around the nation, including Winthrop.

Institutions use the data collected from their school and national benchmarks to identify and improve student engagement both inside and outside the classroom.

In 2006, Kuh became one of only five individuals to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College Personnel Association. The award honors a member who has a recognized level of scholarly productivity and leadership sustained over two decades or more.

Kuh has published 17 books and monographs and more than 150 articles on student experiences, learning and engagement. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, his M.S. from Saint Cloud State College and his B.A. from Luther College.

Winthrop will hold its separate graduate commencement ceremony on May 3 to honor students who will receive master’s and specialist degrees. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. in Byrnes Auditorium.