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## March 28 Inauguration of President Comstock Signals New Era in Winthrop History

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# March 28 Inauguration of President Comstock Signals New Era in Winthrop History

## Quick Facts

- A visionary and inspirational leader, Comstock is the state's only female president of a public university.
- Comstock's 2 p.m. Investiture Ceremony on March 28 at Byrnes Auditorium and the community reception immediately following will highlight the March 24-29 week of Inauguration activities.
- In honor of Comstock and the vision for Winthrop's future that she will detail in her Inauguration speech, the Dare to Rise fund has been established to support access to quality higher education.



President Jayne Marie Comstock

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The **March 28 Inauguration** of Jayne Marie (Jamie) Comstock as the **10th president** of Winthrop University signals a new era in the institution's history.

A visionary and inspirational leader, **Comstock** is the **state's only female president of a public university**. She has charted a bold course for Winthrop's future in order to redefine public higher education. Her goals are to be inclusive, rather than exclusive, while delivering a high-quality academic experience so that all students – regardless of demographic category or life experience – have access to an exceptional public institution such as Winthrop.

In keeping with the tradition of many universities, Winthrop provided Comstock time to settle into the presidency before holding formal Inauguration activities. Selected in March 2013 as **Winthrop's second female president**, Comstock began work on July 1.

Since then she has worked tirelessly to connect with Winthrop faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends to ensure that she understands their perspectives on Winthrop's future. Comstock has infused the campus community with her energy, and she has marshaled support for a collaborative campus-wide visioning process, the results of which will inform the university's strategic planning and priorities going forward.

Comstock's 2 p.m. Investiture Ceremony at **Byrnes Auditorium** and the community reception immediately following will highlight the **March 24-29 week of Inauguration activities**. Other events include a variety of faculty-led lectures, art and research exhibitions, performances, athletic events, service activities, and the annual **Model United Nations conference**. Check the Inauguration website for details on all of the events planned for the week..

**Kathy Hudson Bigham '73**, chair of the **Board of Trustees**, said the wide range of activities will showcase the depth and breadth of university life. "Some of the activities celebrate the contributions of women to our state, which is particularly appropriate, while others explore the rich and varied programs offered at the university," said Bigham. "We are exceedingly proud in this, our 128th year, to share our achievements about the Winthrop experience."

In honor of **Comstock** and the **vision for Winthrop's future** that she will detail in her Inauguration speech, the Dare to Rise fund has been established to support access to quality higher education. The fund will galvanize a spectrum of initiatives designed to ensure the highest caliber instruction and academic support for students, including need-based scholarships. The initial contributions to the fund will be announced during the investiture ceremony.

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