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Presidential Candidate Forum at Winthrop Wins Regional Special Events Award

Winthrop University

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Presidential Candidate Forum at Winthrop Wins Regional Special Events Award

Quick Facts

- The Nov. 6, 2015, event was hosted by Winthrop and sponsored by MSNBC with the S.C. Democratic Party.
- The event, along with a midday visit by Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul as part of U.S. Sen. Tim Scott's Town Hall tour, was a political extravaganza for the campus and the Rock Hill community.



ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA — Winthrop University captured the **top award for special events** at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District III conference for its **First in the South Democratic Presidential Candidate Forum**.

The Nov. 6, 2015, event was hosted by Winthrop and sponsored by **MSNBC** with the **S.C. Democratic Party**. The event, along with a midday visit by **Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul** as part of **U.S. Sen. Tim Scott's Town Hall tour**, was a political extravaganza for the campus and the Rock Hill community.

Winthrop was in the news constantly in the days leading up to the Nov. 6 forum moderated by **Rachael Maddow** and attended by candidates **Hillary Clinton**, **Bernie Sanders** and **Martin O'Malley**. On the day of the event, Sen. Paul was interviewed by **Chris Matthews** on **MSNBC's Hardball**, which was televised from a stage built in front of **Byrnes Auditorium**.

Winthrop's CASE nomination outlined the extensive efforts by a campus committee to handle logistics, facilities, social media, communications, traffic, etc.

The day's many events were captured in a **video**.

"Winthrop put together a great team from all parts of campus who made the First in the South Democratic Forum such a success and put the university in the national and international spotlight," said **Jeff Perez**, vice president for university relations. "I deeply thank everyone who contributed, including our friends from Rock Hill and York County who supported our efforts."

The CASE special events category judging coordinator said Winthrop won the Grand Award against **30 other entries** because of the uniqueness of the event. She also cited the tremendous amount of work and coordination that went into the event.

The **Grand Award** was presented Feb. 7 in Nashville, Tennessee, during the **CASE District III annual conference**.

During the awards presentations, Winthrop also earned an **Award of Excellence** in the Magazine II category for the **Fall 2015 edition of the Winthrop Magazine**.

For more information, contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404

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