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Winthrop University

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BOYD JONES, director of university programs at Winthrop University, received the National Association for Campus Activities’ (NACA) Founders Award during the association’s Feb. 25-29 national conference held in Charlotte, N.C.

The association’s highest honor, the Founders Award, is given to those individuals who have given of their time and talents in such a way as to contribute significantly to NACA. It is presented to an individual or individuals who have given continued and outstanding service to the organization, have exemplified the standards of professional integrity and conduct, have achieved stature in their professional or academic pursuits, hold the esteem of colleagues and peers, and have worked to further the field of campus activities programming.

Jones, who has worked at Winthrop for 20 years and also served 11 years at the University of Tulsa, oversees Winthrop’s DiGiorgio Student Union (DSU) which provides quality on-campus programming to educate and entertain members of the Winthrop community and the public.

Under Jones’ leadership, DSU has consistently been selected by Campus Activities Magazine readers as one of the nation’s best school program boards. DSU won Campus Program of the Year in 1995, 2002 and 2004.

According to Jones, he was genuinely shocked to hear his name called as the Founders Award winner. “I had no idea I was even nominated. I’m just a guy doing what some feel is a good job of providing quality campus activities to our university community. I’ve stuck with this many more years than most, and I’m all about the family atmosphere on program boards I advise,” said Jones.

One secret to his success is that Jones gets to know the artists, musicians and performers who visit campus and is proud to call them friends. “I try to get to know the agents and acts personally and keep up with them, and provide a lot of encouragement and support. The entertainers become part of the Winthrop DSU family as do the wonderful students who have come through our ranks over the years. I do my best to keep up with people and try to help them realize how we are all in this together and why what we do here is important in the big picture of Winthrop University Student Life,” Jones added.

Mike Rapay, assistant director for university programs, came to Winthrop two years ago and has enjoyed learning from Jones. "Working with Boyd has been a real educational experience. I have taken time to learn things that have kept Boyd an essential piece in the field for such a long time. Boyd has been the model citizen as far as maintaining relationships with students, agents and performers. It is because of him that countless Winthrop alumni look back on their days at Winthrop with such fond memories," said Rapay.
Jones' genuine concern for students and his trademark high-fives have made lasting impressions on many students. Keyara Donna, an exercise science major from Walhalla, S.C., who serves as president of DSU, summed it up best: “Boyd is one of the most passionate, hardworking people I have ever met. He truly cares about his work and his students. He always has a smile on his face and is ready to give anyone a high-five when needed. I am sincerely proud to work with Boyd, and I was so happy to watch him receive the Founders Award. It is definitely a well-deserved honor.”