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President Comstock Announces Dare to Rise Fund Tops \$1.1 Million Mark

Winthrop University

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President Comstock Announces Dare to Rise Fund Tops \$1.1 Million Mark

Quick Facts

- Winthrop University President Jamie Comstock announced that more than \$1.1 million has been raised for a fund created just seven weeks ago to support the integration of access and quality at Winthrop.
- A total of 258 individuals have collectively contributed to the Dare to Rise fund.
- The fund will support a new program Comstock also announced. She noted Winthrop recently learned the university was one of only 10 institutions nationally to be selected for the American Council on Education's Change and Innovation Lab.



President Jamie Comstock

ROCK HILL, S.C. - In remarks at her **March 28 Investiture Ceremony**, Winthrop University **President Jamie Comstock** announced that **more than \$1.1 million has been raised** for a fund created just seven weeks ago to **support the integration of access and quality at Winthrop**.

A total of **258 individuals** have collectively contributed to the Dare to Rise fund which will **make degree attainment a reality for all deserving students** who want to transform their opportunities through higher education. Information on the fund was shared with constituents in February when invitations to Comstock's Inauguration were mailed.

"The goals of the Dare to Rise fund seem to resonate with many people who view higher education as a way to ignite individual potential, inspire individual achievement, and improve life in our state and in our nation," Comstock said.

The idea for the fund grew out of a generous **\$2.2 million gift** received from the estate of **Dr. Ann Coleman Peyton** in December. Comstock was inspired to create the Dare to Rise fund as a **special initiative to support students in all majors** and bolster the vision of Winthrop as uniquely positioned to offer quality and access in a singular institution.

The Dare to Rise fund will galvanize a spectrum of initiatives designed to ensure the highest caliber of instruction and support for students and **allow Winthrop to promote a program of "inclusive excellence" through need-based financial aid**.

"The fund will serve as a bridge connecting the successful past with a promising future and aligns with my steadfast belief that all students – regardless of their demographic category or life experience – deserve the kind of education that an exceptional institution like Winthrop provides," Comstock said.

The fund will support a new program Comstock also announced at the ceremony. She noted Winthrop recently learned the university was **one of only 10 institutions nationally** to be selected for the **American Council on Education's Change and Innovation Lab**. Winthrop's program, **RISE – Realizing Investments in Student Engagement**, will provide intensive academic counseling and

career mentoring for all first-generation, undergraduate freshmen and transfer students. The program also will ensure these students have opportunities to engage in high-impact practices that will enhance their prospects for degree attainment and post-graduate success.

Contributors to the Dare to Rise fund include 100 percent of Winthrop's Board of Trustees, President's Advisory Council, senior advancement staff, and the Academic Leadership Council, not to mention the significant contributions received from faculty, staff, retirees, alumni, and friends of Winthrop.

For more information, contact Judy Longshaw, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or e-mail her at longshawj@winthrop.edu.

About Winthrop and the Inauguration of 10th President Jayne Marie Comstock:

The March 24-29 Inauguration of Jayne Marie (Jamie) Comstock as Winthrop's 10th president signals a new era in the history of this top-ranked regional public comprehensive university. Comstock has charted a bold course for Winthrop's future, redefining public higher education by prioritizing both quality and access in a single institution. Serving more than 6,000 students, Winthrop blends liberal arts, professional programs, global understanding, and civic engagement in a diverse community of learners. Students leave Winthrop prepared for successful careers, engaged in a democratic society, responsive to local and global concerns, and grounded in values that give meaning to their lives. Comstock's vision for Winthrop will ensure that all students – regardless of demographic category or life experience – have access to an exceptional public higher education.

[\[Back to Previous Page\]](#)

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