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Winthrop University

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High Schools From the Carolinas Arrive March 25 for Model United Nations

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – The 20 Carolina high schools attending the March 25-27 Model United Nations program at Winthrop University will learn about “Democratization, International Freedoms, Liberties and Equal Worth for All.”

The Model United Nations participants will come together for the 39th annual conference at Winthrop and will represent 60+ countries during committee meetings and general session debates.

This year’s Secretariat is under the student leadership of Khoi Tran, secretary general; Zachary Grieger, director general; and Tilysha McKenney, coordinator general. The three work to organize the conference, contact the high schools and work on logistics for the three-day event, as well as coordinate Winthrop students’ participation in the conference.

The high schools participating from North and South Carolina are: Airport High, Clover High, Eau Claire High, Indian Land High, James F. Byrnes High, Military and Global Leadership Academy, Northwestern High, Pinewood Preparatory School, S.C. Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics, Westminster Catawba Christian School, Bishop England High, David W. Butler High, Fort Mill High, Irmo High, Lexington High, Nation Ford High, Performance Learning Center High, Rock Hill High and South Pointe High.

Winthrop’s first Model U.N. was held on campus under the direction of Melford Wilson, professor of political science and current Winthrop professor emeritus, and Alan Rash, the first student coordinator. Since then more than 2,000 Winthrop students and 10,000 high school students have participated in these conferences.

The Winthrop Model U.N. is unique in that it was the first program of its kind to combine participation of college students with high school students. The Winthrop students, who enroll in the United Nations course, are each assigned a country. Throughout the spring semester, the college students study and debate issues commonly discussed in the assemblies of the United Nations.

During the three-day conference, these college students act as delegates to the nation they represent, debating a resolution on Wednesday night and assisting the high school delegates of the same nation as they debate resolutions in committees and plenary sessions throughout the conference.

Here is the Model U.N. schedule:
March 25: Afternoon registration for high school participants. The first session of the General Assembly will be called to order in the early evening. Winthrop college students will debate in the first session.

March 26: High school students will spend the day in committee sessions debating resolutions that have been previously submitted to the secretary general and the two student coordinators. This year's special committee is the African Union.

March 27: Committee sessions meet again, as well as the General Assembly which meets twice this day, once as a full delegation minus the current Security Council. The afternoon session of General Assembly will be attended by all delegations, including both Security Councils. Following the closing session, awards will be handed out to delegations, delegates and schools.

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