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New Gift Establishes Social Work Scholarship at Winthrop

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06/09/2011

New Gift **Establishes** Social Work Scholarship at Winthrop



The Linda M. Ashley Endowed Scholarship for Social Work will support non-traditional students seeking undergraduate or graduate degrees in social work.

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ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop faculty member and alumna Linda Ashley, class of 1995, will establish the Linda M. Ashley Endowed Scholarship for Social Work through a \$25,000 bequest.

The scholarship will provide financial support for non-traditional students who are pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree in social work.

Ashley, who was a non-traditional student, credits her Winthrop experience with starting her on a new career path she is passionate about. She previously spent 17 years in the broadcasting industry.

"Being a non-traditional student could have been a fearful experience; however, at Winthrop the concept of 'student-centered' education surrounded me with guidance and leadership and gave me the confidence to re-kindle my love of learning from younger days," said Ashley, who currently resides in Rock Hill.

In a little over four years, Ashley, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., earned her B.S.W. from Winthrop and her M.S.W. from the University of South Carolina. Within two years of graduation, she was the executive director of the Catawba Care Coalition, which serves HIV clients in York, Lancaster and Chester countries.

Ashley now serves as the director of field and continuing education and as an instructor in Winthrop's Department of Social Work. She works closely with undergraduate and graduate social work students during their internship process.

Also in honor of her gift, Ashley will be inducted as a charter member of the D.B. Johnson Society, Winthrop's planned giving society, in the fall.

"The Winthrop social work program rivals the best programs nationwide for standards of excellence, and my hope is this scholarship will help another non-traditional student to fulfill a dream and become a great social worker for our world," said Ashley.

For more information on making a gift to Winthrop, call the Office of Development at 803/323-2150.

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