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## Business Dean Honored as Champion of S.C. Small Business Development Center

Winthrop University

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# Business Dean Honored as Champion of S.C. Small Business Development Center

## Quick Facts

- The Partner of Distinction Award is given to an individual or organization who demonstrates exceptional understanding and support of the S.C. Small Business Development Center mission, capabilities and economic impact.
- Roger Weikle has served as chair of the four-university (Clemson, S.C. State, University of South Carolina and Winthrop) Consortium board many times.

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*Michele Abraham and Roger Weikle*

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – The [S.C. Small Business Development Center](#) (SBDC) presented [Roger Weikle](#) of Winthrop University with its Partner of Distinction Award on June 12.

Weikle, dean of the [College of Business Administration](#) and chair of the center's four-university consortium, is well-known in Rock Hill for his interest and involvement in the economic development of the community. Many people may not know that he is equally involved in the welfare of the greater economic development of South Carolina itself. He has been a champion for the [S.C. Small Business Development Center](#) for many years.

For that reason, Weikle was recently presented with the **2014 Partner of Distinction Award**. It is given to an individual or organization who demonstrates exceptional understanding and support of the S.C. Small Business Development Center's mission, capabilities and economic impact. The award recipients are consistently advocates on behalf of the center in a variety of ways such as raising awareness, driving high quality referrals, assisting in capturing funding and enhancing the overall reputation of the network.

**Michele Abraham**, state director of the center, said, "Dr. Weikle is an individual who you all know and respect. He has been a staunch supporter of the SBDC for more than 20 years, promoting us to the universities as well as to the community and stakeholders. He ensures that his university provides generous financial support to the SBDC, and he also sponsors/co-sponsors many of the local SBDC events. **Dean Weikle** also has taken time out of his busy schedule many years to travel and attend the national ASBDC conference in order to stay abreast of changes, accomplishments and needs within the center. He also contributed to our successful ASBDC accreditation in 2012."

**Weikle** is the first individual to receive the **Partner of Distinction Award**. Other recipients include agencies, most recently the S.C. Department of Commerce and Defense Contractors Association.

**Weikle** has served as chair of the four-university (Clemson, S.C. State, University of South Carolina and Winthrop) consortium board many times. In that role, he works with the deans of the other three host institutions in supporting the center and has been critical to the stability of our program. He provides valuable insight and guidance to both Larry Stevens as the Winthrop region director and Abraham as state director.

"He is one of the few people I have known who truly understands the synergy and importance of marrying education and business to maximize benefits to our community," **Abraham** said. "Dr. Weikle

is more than just a partner of the SBDC. He is a collaborator and a friend who truly cares. For those reasons, he will always be considered a very special Partner of Distinction."

For more information, contact **Celeste Tiller**, director of external relations for Winthrop's College of Business Administration, at [tillerc@winthrop.edu](mailto:tillerc@winthrop.edu).

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