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

Winthrop University

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Michele Abraham and Roger Weikle

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."

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