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Winthrop University

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ROCK HILL, S.C. - Senior Joshua Richard Jones of Easley, S.C., received the Tillman Award at Winthrop University’s fall commencement exercises on Dec. 20 at Winthrop Coliseum.

The Tillman Award is the university’s highest academic honor. Established in 1940 to honor former S.C. Governor Benjamin Ryan Tillman, the award recognizes the graduate who has most consistently met the demands of academic excellence. Recipients are given framed citations and a medallion during the ceremony.

Jones, who earned a bachelor of science degree from the College of Business Administration in computer science and another bachelor of science degree in mathematics, plans to work for the next few months before heading to graduate school.

“I am on the fence as to whether I will be pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics or in computer science. In any case, I plan to use both disciplines in my future career,” Jones said.

He wants to study computational science, the process of solving scientific problems with high precision computing. Depending on the school that he attends, he may study instead high performance computing or optimization. “Ideally, I would like to design software to allow engineers to tackle challenging problems, like designing new aircraft, bridges, or buildings,” he added.