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Winthrop University

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Ken Sheetz Chosen as Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA - Kenneth L. Sheetz will join Winthrop University on July 1 as associate vice president for institutional advancement.

At Winthrop, Sheetz will oversee all fundraising activities, including planned giving and annual giving operations as well as development operations. The Ohio native also will supervise management of employee relations for the Office of Development.

"I'm looking forward to the significant contributions Ken Sheetz will make here," said Vice President for Institutional Advancement William D. "Danny" Nicholson II. "He brings a wealth of experience that he has gained over the years which will help us close out the Distinction campaign and take fundraising to the next level by enhancing development operations and building the relationships vital to our continued success."

Sheetz’s career in fundraising in non-profit management spans 24 years in a variety of fields, including higher education, performing arts, K-12 schools, health care and community organizations. He comes to Winthrop from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he worked as associate vice president of development and reorganized and focused the university’s planned and major gift program.

Additional career highlights include launching and managing the first comprehensive capital campaign for the University of Indianapolis. The campaign raised $75 million, surpassing the original $50 million goal. Sheetz also managed a $70 million comprehensive campaign that raised $74 million at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. During his time at Wittenberg, he also secured a gift totaling $10 million – then the largest gift in the university’s history.

"I am excited to join the Winthrop development team. Together we will create a program that will help enable the university to grow upon its successes and plan for an even brighter future," Sheetz said. "During my interviews it became clear that Winthrop is about people and relationships. I look forward to meeting and getting to know the alumni, friends, faculty and staff and becoming engaged in the Rock Hill and surrounding communities."

A native of Alliance, Ohio, Sheetz earned his B.A. in business and political science at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio, and his M.B.A. at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

His fundraising career also includes work at such organizations as the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges; the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra; Christel House International, which provides education and poverty relief to more than 3,000 children worldwide; and the Indiana Organ Procurement Organization Foundation. Sheetz’s first position in fundraising was at Muskingum University in Alliance, Ohio.
University, where he served as director for development/annual giving from 1989-92.

An active member of Independent College Advancement Associates, where he served as president and conference chair, Sheetz also has been involved in his community. He served as co-chair for the Finance Committee at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Carmel, Indiana. He has served as board president for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Springfield, Ohio; a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America in Zanesville, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana; and Rejuvenate Committee member and consultant for the United Methodist Church Bishop’s Office.

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