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Winthrop SIFE Students Compete for National Championship

Winthrop University

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Winthrop SIFE Students Compete for National Championship

Quick Facts

- The Winthrop team qualified for the trip after winning at the regional level April 4 in Charlotte, N.C.
- At regional competition, the Winthrop team was judged best at teaching people of all ages the principles of free enterprise.

KANSAS CITY, MO. - The **Winthrop University Students In Free Enterprise Team** will be one of more than 180 SIFE Teams from across the nation competing at the **2005 SIFE USA National Exposition** from May 22-24. The competition is hosted by the Kansas City business community.

The Winthrop team qualified for the trip after winning at the regional level April 4 in Charlotte, N.C. That event was one of 21 **SIFE USA Regional Competitions** held across the United States.

At regional competition, the **Winthrop team** was judged best at teaching people of all ages the principles of free enterprise. **Winthrop SIFE** not only taught free enterprise, but team members made a difference in the Rock Hill community by developing projects to meet specific needs of community members.

Three of the projects included:

- Holding a **Hispanic Education Fair** which addressed the need in the Hispanic population for bilingual information about services available in the community. Twenty- four SIFE members volunteered 305 hours to implement the fair held on the Winthrop campus. The event drew 425 Hispanic community members to the fair to receive information about employment, entrepreneurship, personal success skills, and services available to them.
- Writing a business plan last year for the start-up of a **Habitat for Humanity Resale Store** in Rock Hill, S.C. which resulted in the store opening in August of 2004. Winthrop's SIFE team continued to help in 2005 by writing a marketing plan to increase sales in the store.
- Coordinating eighth graders at Fort Mill Middle School in the **Best in the U.S. Ice Cream Competition** sponsored by the University of South Dakota SIFE Team and Blue Bunny Ice Cream. Winthrop's team placed second in the national competition and taught middle school students about the principles of entrepreneurship.

In addition to being regional champions in Charlotte, **Winthrop SIFE team members** won the **Sam's Club Entrepreneurship Trophy** in their league for a total of 17 entrepreneurial consulting projects completed this year. A \$500 prize accompanied the award.

In the Kansas City national competition, two teams will emerge as the **RadioShack SIFE USA National Champion**, and the winning team in the four-year college division will move on to represent the United States at SIFE World Cup 2005 in Toronto, Canada, competing against national champions from more than 40 other countries. Also in Kansas City, Winthrop SIFE students will have the opportunity to interview for jobs and internships during a two-day career opportunity fair with representatives from more than 50 companies.

Bobbie Fuller, the Sam Walton Fellow and advisor to Winthrop's SIFE team, said, "The Winthrop SIFE Team had come a long way in just two years. We moved from four projects in 2004 to 24 projects in 2005. We are so proud of how the students are taking the principles of free enterprise that they learn in the classroom into the community."

Winthrop SIFE has 10 ongoing projects that are committed for next year. Entrepreneurial projects will continue to be the team's focus for the coming year. Winthrop SIFE intends to continually expand and build stronger relationships in its community, as service learning, and community outreach are important goals for the **Winthrop College of Business Administration**.

SIFE is a non-profit organization active on more than 1,700 college and university campuses in 42 countries and territories. **SIFE** works in partnership with business and higher education to provide students the opportunity to make a difference and to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise.

For more information, contact Fuller at 803/323-2683, e-mail her at fullerb@winthrop.edu.

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