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## Winthrop Graduate to Urge Students to Think Globally

Winthrop University

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# Winthrop Graduate to Urge Students to Think Globally

## Quick Facts

- Montrio Belton, principal of Monroe Middle School in Monroe, N.C., will speak at Convocation Aug. 20.
- Belton is pursuing his doctorate at UNC-Charlotte.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - A North Carolina middle school principal who put himself through college will share his story with freshmen during **Convocation** on Aug. 20 in **Byrnes Auditorium**.

Convocation, traditionally held the day before classes begin, serves as an official welcome to new freshmen and their induction into the Winthrop community of learners. Offices will close at 3:45 p.m. so that all faculty and staff will be able to attend the 4 p.m. ceremony.

Convocation speaker, **Montrio Belton** '96, '99, the principal of Monroe Middle School in Monroe, N.C., since 2004, may have been at-risk for completing his education as the son of a teen mother. He was determined to finish high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves, learning discipline and tactical skills in nuclear, biological and chemical operations. Belton received an honorable discharge as a sergeant in 1999 after an eight-year stint.

By then he was on his way to earning a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in education administration, both from Winthrop. Now with 11 years in the field of education as a social studies teacher at a Rock Hill middle school and assistant principal at high schools in North and South Carolina, Belton is seeking his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Since his college days, he has turned his focus from thinking about regional issues to how Americans can continue to succeed in a changing work environment.

During Convocation, Belton will urge Winthrop students to pay attention to their peers in other countries around the world. "America remains a superpower, but other countries are catching up fast," he said. "I want Winthrop students to think about what role they will play in this global environment."

Immediately following Convocation, President and Mrs. Anthony DiGiorgio will lead students out of Byrnes and toward Tillman Hall in the traditional **blue line** procession. The community picnic will follow on the lawn in front of **Tillman Hall** and **Margaret Nance Hall** at 5 p.m. The rain location for the picnic is **McBryde Hall**.

For more information, contact the **Office of the President** at 803/323-2225.

[\[Back to Previous Page\]](#)

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