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Winthrop University

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# Takita Sumter Appointed Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

## Quick Facts

- Takita Felder Sumter, professor of biochemistry and a Provost Faculty Fellow, will serve as the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for a one-year term, beginning Aug. 1.
- She replaces Karen Kedrowski, who is assuming a new role as executive director of the Center for Civic Learning.
- Sumter will provide leadership to Winthrop's largest degree-granting college—including 14 departments and five centers.



Takita Sumter

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – Winthrop University administrators announced yesterday that Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs **Debra Boyd** has appointed **Takita Felder Sumter**, professor of biochemistry and a **Provost Faculty Fellow**, as the **interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences** for a one-year term, beginning Aug. 1, 2017. A national search will begin in Fall 2017 to fill the position on a more permanent basis.

She replaces **Karen Kedrowski**, who is assuming a **new role as executive director of the Center for Civic Learning**.

Sumter will provide leadership to **Winthrop's largest degree-granting college**—including 14 departments and five centers—and will oversee more than 300 full- and part-time faculty and staff and a \$16.3 million budget. “Providing meaningful learning experiences for our students is intrinsic to the work of the Winthrop community. I am honored to serve as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, one of the campus’ most diverse and important units. In fact, it’s difficult to imagine working with a more talented group of faculty, staff and students than those in the College of Arts and Sciences,” said Sumter.

Boyd said that the College of Arts and Sciences and Winthrop will benefit from Sumter’s effective leadership. “**Takita is well-respected by all who know and work with her**, and she will **move the college forward on a number of initiatives**. She has made exceptional contributions to student intellectual development and support, to her discipline’s scholarship through publications and grants, and through her professional stewardship at Winthrop.”

Sumter has served in a number of varied leadership roles, including her service as the first Provost’s Faculty Fellow and as interim chair of the **Department of Human Nutrition**.

**Sumter frequently publishes in refereed scientific journals** and makes editorial contributions to professional publications, including Science’s Nextwave and American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Today, that reflect her interest in the professional development of the next generation of scientists.

**Her professional commitment to fostering the interests of minorities in science is seen in her service** as chair of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Minority Affairs Committee. She is currently co-leading the society’s Interactive Mentoring Activities for Grantsmanship Enhancement program, a \$500,000 National Science Foundation-funded initiative to mentor early-career faculty across the country. She was recently elected to the ASBMB Council, one of nine councilors elected nationwide.

Sumter is a professor of biochemistry in the **Department of Chemistry, Physics, & Geology** at

Winthrop.

She received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of South Carolina and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine prior to joining the faculty at Winthrop in 2004.

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