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Mahony Shares Winthrop's Economic Impact, Outlines Priorities at Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

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Mahony Shares Winthrop's Economic Impact, Outlines Priorities at Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

Quick Facts

- The event was Mahony's first opportunity to meet with some of the area's key business and government leaders since assuming the Winthrop presidency on July 1.
- Mahony shared with attendees his experience at Kent State and how he witnessed Kent's successful downtown redevelopment efforts and how those efforts have improved the image of Kent.



President Dan Mahony

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Winthrop University President Dan Mahony** wants the Rock Hill institution to play a key role in regional economic development. Mahony was the keynote speaker at the **York County Regional Chamber of Commerce's July 24 Power Luncheon** held at the **City Club** in Rock Hill.

"I believe this is an essential role for public universities like Winthrop and I take our role in economic development very seriously," said Mahony. "I believe we have tremendous capacity to help the region's economy grow."

The event was Mahony's first opportunity to meet with some of the area's key business and government leaders since assuming the Winthrop presidency on July 1. Mahony shared with attendees his experience at **Kent State** and how he witnessed Kent's successful downtown redevelopment efforts and how those efforts have improved the image of Kent.

He said this initiative was made possible by how well Kent State, the business community, and the city and region's leaders have partnered together, and he sees that same **collaborative spirit** at Winthrop and in the Rock Hill community. Several luncheon attendees traveled to Kent in early June to view the revitalization efforts first hand, a trip that Mahony helped arrange while still serving as a dean at Kent State.

Also during his remarks, Mahony shared the kinds of **economic impact** that Winthrop has on the area. "The annual economic impact on York County is about \$160 million and approximately \$40 million of that is payroll paid to York County residents. In addition, there are about 13,000 Winthrop alumni that live in York County," said Mahony.

He added that Winthrop also heavily contributes to the **quality of life** in York County by offering a variety of cultural and sporting opportunities that make the area a more attractive region for prospective employees to locate. Lastly, he noted the growth resulting from employees educated at Winthrop, as well as Winthrop professors and graduates, who start businesses, and the partnerships created with these businesses.

Mahony concluded his presentation by affirming that he will be **accessible to area business leaders**

and will participate in community initiatives, that he'll champion campus initiatives that will promote business growth, and he commended the **Knowledge Park initiative** and expressed his appreciation of the **Winthrop Board of Trustees' unanimous endorsement** of the initiative.

He also shared his top **three presidential priorities** with the group. "I plan to listen and learn all I can, begin strategic planning which will drive resource allocation, and instill in my leadership team and with groups across campus a philosophy of continual improvement, and the innovation and change that comes with it."

"Winthrop needs to grow and adapt to new business conditions – and you need Winthrop to grow to meet your needs. We're in this together," Mahony said.

For more information, please contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or e-mail longshawj@winthrop.edu.

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