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## Winthrop and York Technical College Presidents Sign Bridge Program Agreement

Winthrop University

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# Winthrop and York Technical College Presidents Sign Bridge Program Agreement

## Quick Facts

- The Winthrop Bridge Program is an academic transfer program that allows freshman students to attend York Technical College for two years to earn an associate's degree or University Studies certificate before transferring to Winthrop to complete a four-year degree.
- During the signing Rutherford also announced a special York Tech scholarship program in honor of DiGiorgio's 24 years of leadership, service and contribution to Winthrop and the entire Rock Hill community. Two \$1,200 scholarships will be available to Winthrop Bridge students who begin their studies at York Tech as a tribute to DiGiorgio and his legacy.



Winthrop President Anthony DiGiorgio, left, and York Tech President Greg Rutherford

ROCK HILL, S.C. – **Winthrop University** and **York Technical College** will enhance an already strong relationship by establishing a collaborative bridge program that begins this fall.

The **Winthrop Bridge Program** is an academic transfer program that allows freshman students to attend York Technical College for two years to earn an **associate's degree** or **University Studies certificate** before transferring to Winthrop to complete a four-year degree.

The program, announced June 27 at a signing ceremony at the **DiGiorgio Campus Center** at Winthrop, creates a path to degree completion by providing comprehensive and coordinated student support services at both campuses.

For example, **Winthrop Bridge Program** students will have access to:

- \* Personal admission counselors
- \* Dedicated academic advisors
- \* Peer mentors through the Resource Center for Adult Services in Winthrop's University College
- \* Early registration option at Winthrop

Bridge Program students will also enjoy access to:

- \* Sports events and cultural events, such as theatre or music performances on Winthrop's campus
- \* Winthrop facilities, such as the **Dacus Library**, **West Center** for wellness activities, **Academic Success Center** for tutoring and the **Writing Center**

Administrators said the Bridge Program is the next step for the two schools. The Rock Hill institutions, which have enjoyed a long partnership, put in place an **articulation agreement** in 2009.

"Both Winthrop University and York Technical College are committed to students continuing to learn beyond high school in as seamless a way as possible to achieve their goals," said **Winthrop President Anthony DiGiorgio**. "The Bridge Program offers particular students an opportunity to

prove their academic potential by earning an associate's degree, then build on that foundation to earn a bachelor's degree in a more timely and cost-effective way. Incomes tend to increase with education attainment, so programs such as these serve both individual and state workforce goals."

**York Technical College President Greg Rutherford** added: "Winthrop University has been a longstanding partner of York Technical College and contributor to the local and regional community. York Tech and Winthrop both share a mission of ensuring our students' success and contributing to the economic development of our region. This partnership further solidifies our progress and opens new gateways for students to compete and thrive in today's knowledge-driven economy."

During the signing Rutherford also announced a **special York Tech scholarship program** in honor of DiGiorgio's 24 years of leadership, service and contribution to Winthrop and the entire Rock Hill community. **Two \$1,200 scholarships** will be available to Winthrop Bridge students who begin their studies at York Tech as a tribute to DiGiorgio and his legacy.

Students interested in the **Winthrop Bridge Program** with York Technical College should contact the **Winthrop Office of Admissions** at 803/323-2191 or **York Technical College Admissions** at 803/327-8008.

For more information, contact **Judy Longshaw**, Winthrop news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or e-mail her at [longshawj@winthrop.edu](mailto:longshawj@winthrop.edu) or **Monique Perry**, York Tech's director of strategic communications and marketing, at 803/981-7161 or e-mail her at [mperry@yorktech.edu](mailto:mperry@yorktech.edu).

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