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Alumnus, S.C. Rep. Gary Simrill '91 Will Give Keynote Convocation Speech

Winthrop University

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Alumnus, S.C. Rep. Gary Simrill '91 Will Give Keynote Convocation Speech

Quick Facts

- The event, which is set for 3 p.m. on Aug. 25 in Byrnes Auditorium and held two hours before the university's first class for the fall 2014 semester, serves as an official welcome to new freshmen and their induction into the Winthrop community of learners.
- Keynote speaker Gary Simrill earned his B.S. in business from Winthrop in 1991 and was elected to the S.C. General Assembly the next year representing District 46.



Gary Simrill

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – A long-time Rock Hill legislator and Winthrop University alumnus will share his story at **Convocation**.

The event, which is set for 3 p.m. on Aug. 25 in **Byrnes Auditorium** and held two hours before the university's first class for the fall 2014 semester, serves as an official welcome to new freshmen and their induction into the Winthrop community of learners. Offices will close so that all faculty and staff will be able to attend the ceremony.

Keynote speaker **Gary Simrill** earned his B.S. in business from Winthrop in 1991 and was elected to the **S.C. General Assembly** the next year representing District 46.

Elected every term since then, the Republican legislator now serves as **Assistant Majority Whip** and is a member of the **House Republican leadership**. He is a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, where he chairs the **Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee**.

Simrill has put his seniority to work for his alma mater in recent years by winning a series of six-figure one-time appropriations to assist in the upkeep of **Winthrop's historic buildings**. He came to the university's rescue after the **Owens Hall fire** in 2010 when he pushed for passage of legislation to have the academic building restored and back in service just nine months after fire and water devastated its interior.

Simrill is president and CEO of **Carolina Motorworks** in Rock Hill.

Acting President Debra Boyd will preside at the **Convocation ceremony**. New students will be welcomed to Rock Hill by **Kathy Bigham '73**, chair of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees; **Doug Echols '77**, mayor of Rock Hill; **Ian Deas**, chair of the Council of Student Leaders; and **John Bird**, faculty representative.

Immediately following the ceremony, Boyd and her husband, Warren, 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 4 p.m.

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

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