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Organization Recognizes Winthrop for Its Return on Investment

Winthrop University

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Organization Recognizes Winthrop for Its Return on Investment

Quick Facts

- The online organization noted that graduates of schools on its list enjoy the largest earnings gap between non-degree holders over a 30-year span.
- AffordableCollegesOnline.org founder Dan Schuessler said the criteria his organization used is important for prospective students to consider.



Jayne Marie (Jamie) Comstock

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – AffordableCollegesOnline.org – a resource for college affordability and financial aid information – has identified **Winthrop University** as one of the top five South Carolina public universities with the **greatest lifetime return on investment**.

The online organization noted that graduates of schools on its list enjoy the **largest earnings gap** between non-degree holders over a 30-year span.

Winthrop President Jayne Marie (Jamie) Comstock said the university is pleased to be recognized by this new rating organization. “This recognition affirms that Winthrop offers the quality of a private education at a public price,” said Comstock. “When families consider the value-added of Winthrop’s high level of personal attention to students, the strength of our academic programs, and the full collegiate experience we offer, I am certain that they see that the return on investment from Winthrop is even better than indicated.”

AffordableCollegesOnline.org used the following criteria for those with the highest return on investment:

- Fully accredited institution
- Either public or private
- Four-year, degree-granting institution
- Return on investment according to [PayScale's 2013 College Value Report](#)

ACO founder Dan Schuessler said the criteria are important for prospective students to consider. “We’ve sifted through comprehensive data sources to find colleges and universities in South Carolina that offer a high quality education with consistent, long-term payoffs in the workplace,” he said.

According to the ACO statistics, Winthrop graduates earn \$295,900 more than those without degrees over a three-decade period. To arrive at the figure, the organization used criteria gathered from the following authoritative data sets:

- **NCES**: the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education. It provides consistent, reliable, complete, and accurate indicators of education status and trends.
- **IPEDS**: the primary federal source for data on colleges, universities, and technical and vocational postsecondary schools in the U.S.
- **Carnegie Classification**: a framework widely used in the study of higher education, both as a way to represent and control for institutional differences, and also in the design of research studies to ensure adequate representation of sampled institutions, students, or faculty.
- **Payscale.com**: the premier salary data collection organization.

To check out the rankings, visit <http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/south->

[carolina/](#)

This is one of several recent accolades for Winthrop. The university stands out in the region among public universities for its long track record with [U.S. News](#) and its inclusion in the [Princeton Review](#), which has rated Winthrop among its "[Best Southeastern Colleges](#)" and placed it in its "[Guide to 322 Green Colleges](#)." In addition, Winthrop was the only South Carolina institution cited in the 2011 "[Beating the Odds](#)" report by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in helping students, particularly minority students, most prone to dropping out of college stay on track toward graduation.

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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