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Fine Arts Chair Selected for Higher Education Award by State Art Education Association

Winthrop University

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ROCK HILL, S.C. - For Tom Stanley, chair of the Department of Fine Arts, art education is a passion. His dedication to instilling art education into curriculum at the college and state levels earned him the 2010 South Carolina Art Education Association (SCAEA) Higher Education Level Award in October.

"I have always recognized the importance of art education as my wife, Kathe, has been an excellent K-12 teacher for years," said Stanley. "She has always reminded me, without having to say, that art education is central to K-12 education."

Stanley continued: "I know that art educators often assume positions of leadership in their schools as they write grants, do more than required and bring all the disciplines together to achieve common learning goals."

As a way to highlight art education at the state level, Stanley said Winthrop will host the National Art Honors Society state conference in March. The university supports state-wide and immediate area art educators with programs, including the recent Oct. 8 Rock Hill School District Lewandowski In-Service at Winthrop and a host of other programs and in-service opportunities.

Stanley was nominated for the award by Josh Drews '01, president-elect of SCAEA, and received letters of support from Alf Ward, professor emeritus of fine arts, and Morenga Hunt, the former vice president for education at the Blumenthal in Charlotte and a Winthrop Medal of Honor in the Arts recipient.

Criteria for the award included demonstration of outstanding teaching and program development; promotion of strong advocacy; and a history of active SCAEA participation at the local and state level.