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Winthrop University

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Department of Mass Communication to Hold Summer Institute for Journalism Teachers

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop University will train 17 high school journalism teachers and newspaper advisers July 10-22 during a summer institute sponsored by the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE).

The teachers will come to Winthrop from 14 states for training at the Rock Hill campus, according to William Click, chair of the Department of Mass Communication.

Peter Bhatia, executive editor of The (Portland) Oregonian and past president of ASNE, will keynote the institute July 10-11.

Other universities offering ASNE training this summer are: Kent State University, Kent, Ohio; University of California, Berkeley; University of South Florida, Tampa; and University of Texas at Austin. The schools were chosen from among 27 proposals for the project from ACEJMC-accredited journalism programs. This is the second year Winthrop has offered the program.

ASNE organizers said a concerted effort was made to target teachers from schools where scholastic media is foundering or non-existent and aggressive recruitment in resource-poor urban and rural districts. In all, 175 high school teachers and advisers will participate.

Funding for the institutes comes from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Participating teachers incur no expenses because the grant pays their round-trip transportation, housing, meals, materials and graduate tuition.

The institutes are a highly effective way to train and prepare teachers to shape the next diverse generation of journalists, said Diana Mitsu Klos, ASNE senior project director.

The ASNE program attempts to better inform teachers about the operations of daily newspapers and practices, news values and ethical decision-making; to impart basic writing, editing, design, photo and graphics skills so teachers can advise students to start or strengthen a school newspaper; and to shift the focus of many high school newspapers to fair and balanced news reporting and writing and away from essay writing, public relations and personal opinion pieces.

Five Winthrop mass communication professors will teach in the program, which can be renewed for 2006. Reporters and editors from The Charlotte Observer, The (Rock Hill) Herald and other ASNE-member newspapers will guest lecture over the two-weeks, as will the director of the Student Press Law Center and The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center. A national high school journalism teacher of the year will be a resource person throughout the two weeks. The institute participants also will visit The Herald and The Charlotte Observer to meet with editors and tour their
Two teachers each will come from Alabama, Arizona and North Carolina and one each from California, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont.