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Winthrop University

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Academic Center at Coliseum to Bear Name of Rock Hill Coca-Cola

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop University will designate its athletics academic center in the Winthrop Coliseum as the Rock Hill Coca-Cola Academic Resource Center at a dedication ceremony on Nov. 29.

The event will be held prior to the men’s basketball game at 7 p.m. against Newberry College.

The Academic Resource Center includes offices for the academic support staff, a 16-station computer lab, a small group seminar room and a large study room equipped with Smart technology. The naming acknowledges a significant long-term contribution that will, in part, create an endowment for athletics scholarships.

"We are certainly honored and excited to be able to extend our relationship with the Winthrop athletics department. We feel particularly good that a significant portion of this commitment is going to be used to form an academic learning center," said Fred Faircloth, president of Rock Hill Coca-Cola Bottling Company. "Every athletics department that is able to provide this kind of academic support program for its student-athletes should do it. I think it says a lot about Winthrop Athletics in that the department is making a commitment to having a center like this, and we are proud to be a sponsor of such a worthwhile program."

Winthrop officials said the university has enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Rock Hill Coca-Cola over the years. The company has been and continues to be a significant contributor to athletics, especially in the area of scholarships, but also regularly contributes to the Winthrop University annual fund and Friends of the Library. Rock Hill Coca-Cola was a major supporter of Winthrop’s first capital campaign, "A Lasting Achievement: The Campaign for Winthrop."

"We are extremely pleased that this relationship will continue and that even further, our academic resource center will now have an endowment to help it sustain its operations over the years ahead. We are very proud of the academic achievements of our student-athletes and the Rock Hill Coca-Cola Academic Resource Center is a tangible way to help Winthrop continue its quest for excellence in academics and athletics," said Tom Hickman, Winthrop’s athletics director. "We greatly appreciate the support that Rock Hill Coca-Cola has shown for our athletics program here at Winthrop. These are the kinds of things which will help Winthrop continue to attract the most talented and brightest students to this university."