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National Education Officials Hear about Winthrop's Voter Registration Efforts

Winthrop University

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National Education Officials Hear about Winthrop's Voter Registration Efforts

Quick Facts

- Ardaiole was one of four speakers to talk to Kanter about what schools, students and organizations are doing to ensure voter registration information is made available to all students.
- He talked about the presence of Winthrop's West Forum and the many student organizations on campus assisted by Student Life who have conducted voter drives and held election information sessions.



Frank Ardaiole

ROCK HILL, S.C. - **Frank Ardaiole**, Winthrop University's vice president for student life, shared with national education officials how Winthrop engaged students in registering to vote.

During a Sept. 30 conference call, Ardaiole spoke on behalf of the **National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)** to the **U.S. Department of Education's Undersecretary Martha Kanter** on the **Higher Education Act (HEA) voter registration provision**. His comments were relevant to a provision in the **Higher Education Act** that requires recipients of HEA funding to make voter registration information widely available to all students, including those with disabilities, prior to Election Day.

Ardaiole was one of four speakers to talk to Kanter about what schools, students and organizations are doing to ensure voter registration information is made available to all students. He talked about the presence of Winthrop's **West Forum** and the many student organizations on campus assisted by **Student Life** who have conducted voter drives and held election information sessions. More than 1,000 Winthrop students have registered to vote in the last two years.

NASPA, the nation's primary student affairs professional association, selected **Ardaiole** because of Winthrop's well-known efforts to promote **civic engagement**.

Others speaking were: the student government president at Hampton University, Virginia; the campus vote project coordinator for Fair Elections Legal Network; and the senior director of elections for the League of Women Voters.

Education department officials want to prepare students for informed, engaged participation in the civic life of their communities. This active engagement has helped colleges and universities increase student achievement, close achievement gaps and prepare students to become productive citizens who understand their role and responsibility in their democracy.

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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