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## Commencement Exercises for Undergraduates and Graduates Set for Dec. 16

Winthrop University

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# Commencement Exercises for Undergraduates and Graduates Set for Dec. 16

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## Quick Facts

- The speaker at the 11 a.m. ceremony will be Professor of English John Bird, Winthrop's 2017 Distinguished Professor.
- President Dan Mahony will preside at the event, where master's or specialist degrees will be awarded to around 75 graduate degree candidates and undergraduate degrees to more than 250 candidates.
- Mahony also will present Psychology Professor Cheryl Fortner-Wood with the 2017 James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching.



John Bird

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – Winthrop University's **Dec. 16 Commencement ceremony** will celebrate the graduation of nearly 330 students at Winthrop Coliseum.

The speaker at the 11 a.m. ceremony will be **Professor of English John Bird, Winthrop's 2017 Distinguished Professor**. He returns from retirement to deliver a speech on the "Words of Wisdom-Rarely Found in Commencement Speeches" and admits he missed his own undergraduate ceremony at Appalachian State University.

**President Dan Mahony** will preside at the event, where master's or specialist degrees will be awarded to around 75 graduate degree candidates and undergraduate degrees to more than 250 candidates. Those who earned their degrees in August are welcome to participate.

Mahony also will present **Psychology Professor Cheryl Fortner-Wood** with the **2017 James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching**. The award is given annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated a dedication to teaching and is highly regarded on campus by faculty and students.

Fortner-Wood joined the Winthrop faculty in 1998 and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, as well as directs the university's McNair Scholars Program. Winthrop learned this fall that the program's federal grant to help prepare underserved students for graduate school has been renewed for the next five years.

For those who cannot attend, the Dec. 16 event will be available via live stream on **YouTube**. Please visit the university's homepage and click on the "**Commencement Information**" **graphic** to access the video and other important information regarding Commencement.

For more information, contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or [longshawj@winthrop.edu](mailto:longshawj@winthrop.edu).

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