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Renewal of Five-Year Grant will Continue Winthrop's STEM Initiative

Winthrop University

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Quick Facts

- Winthrop was one of only 40 Noyce awards made nationwide from the 118 proposals submitted to the funding agency in the spring, according to Beth Greene Costner, associate dean of the Richard W. Riley College of Education and co-director of the Winthrop Initiative for STEM Educators, called WISE.
- This second award for more than \$1 million includes a stronger partnership with nearby York Technical College with eight internship spots and 10 scholarships set to be awarded to students that begin their college career there.



Beth Costner

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA - Winthrop University will host a second phase of the **Robert Noyce Scholarship Program** directed at recruiting and retaining high-achieving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students as secondary teachers.

Winthrop was one of only 40 Noyce awards made nationwide from the 118 proposals submitted to the funding agency in the spring, according to **Beth Greene Costner**, associate dean of the **Richard W. Riley College of Education** and co-director of the Winthrop Initiative for **STEM Educators**, called **WISE**.

Building on the success of the initial **National Science Foundation Grant**, Winthrop started a second five-year program this fall. This second award of more than \$1 million will support:

- An additional 32 new STEM teachers with scholarships up to \$20,000
- Forty-eight high-achieving first and second year STEM students through the summer research experience.

The new award includes a stronger partnership with nearby **York Technical College** with eight internship spots and 10 scholarships set to be awarded to students that begin their college career there.

The WISE program will continue to be led by **Costner** and other Winthrop faculty members **Cassandra Bell** of biology and **Kelly Costner** of middle-level education. With the new award, the leadership team is expanded to include **Trent Kull** of mathematics and **John McGill** of York Technical College. Additional partners include the Winthrop-School Partnership with **Lisa Johnson**, associate education dean, and the Discovery Place Education Studio.

Winthrop's initiative was first funded in 2010 and supported 38 such majors pursuing teacher certification with up to \$20,000 in direct scholarship support. That was supplemented with targeted mentoring in the final year of the program and first year of teaching. The program also supported 64 first- and second-year students from Winthrop and York Technical College through an intensive 3-week summer experience that included research in the discipline and service learning in partnership middle and high schools.

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

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