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Winthrop University

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ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA — Eddie Lee ‘83 is no stranger to local government. In addition to his duties as associate professor of history and director of history graduate studies at Winthrop University, he’s also the mayor of York, South Carolina.

Lee now has another government designation to his name: the new president of the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils (SCARC), an organization comprised of the state’s 10 councils of government. The local council, which is based in Rock Hill and serves York, Chester, Lancaster and Union counties, is led by Winthrop Board of Trustees member Randy Imler ‘87, ’00.

Formed more than 40 years ago, the SCARC partners with and offers resources to local counties, cities and towns within the regions. The organization also partners with federal and state agencies to find and award grants for community-based programs and economic development initiatives.


Lee has co-authored 15 books, including the award-winning “Yorkville to York” and “Southern Cold Warrior,” a biography of U.S. Congressman James P. Richards. His research interests include state history and U.S. presidents. Earlier this year, the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation presented Lee the S.C. Historical Preservation Award for his work preserving the York County courthouse. He joined the Winthrop community more than 20 years ago.

Imler joined the Board of Trustees in 2014. He has served as the executive director of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments since 2005 and was previously a senior vice president at Bank of America. In addition to his Winthrop degrees, he has two degrees from the University of South Carolina.

For more information, contact Lee at leee@winthrop.edu or 803/323-4844.