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Economics Faculty Member Chosen for Winthrop's Top Teaching Award

Winthrop University

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Economics Faculty Member Chosen for Winthrop's Top Teaching Award

Quick Facts

- Acting President Debra Boyd will present Ullrich with the 2014 James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching during the 11 a.m. ceremony at the Winthrop Coliseum.
- The Kinard Award is given annually to the faculty member who has demonstrated a dedication to teaching and is highly regarded on campus by faculty and students. Established by the Kinard family, it honors former Winthrop President James P. Kinard and his wife, Lee Wicker Kinard.



Laura Ullrich

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Laura Dawson Ullrich**, an associate professor of economics who excels in mentoring, research, and service, will receive Winthrop University's top teaching award at the **Dec. 20 undergraduate Commencement**.

Acting President Debra Boyd will present Ullrich with the **2014 James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching** during the 11 a.m. ceremony at the **Winthrop Coliseum**.

The Kinard Award is given annually to the faculty member who has demonstrated a dedication to teaching and is highly regarded on campus by faculty and students. Established by the Kinard family, it honors **former Winthrop President James P. Kinard and his wife, Lee Wicker Kinard**.

"Dr. Ullrich is an excellent teacher, mentor, scholar, and university citizen, helping her students to understand fully the subject matter by collaborating with them in the classroom and on research projects," Boyd said.

Ullrich's **teaching and research interests** include for-profit higher education, school finance reform, local and state level tax and expenditure analyses, welfare policy, and environmental economics. She has a keen interest in international field experience work, both for students and herself, and served as a **Fulbright Scholar in Kosovo** in 2014.

Colleagues said Ullrich excels at research and at conveying her findings, often with students by her side. She has gained success with publications in top tier economic journals, has authored nine published articles, given 28 presentations and/or conference proceedings, and conducted frequent local and regional media interviews. She also has given freely of her time to mentor students, contribute to university committees, and to volunteer on professional and community organizations.

In 2008-09, Ullrich earned the College of Business Administration's top award, the **Wachovia/Wells Fargo Teaching Award**, for her teaching talent, hard work, and dedication to student success. Then in 2010, she was chosen as one of only seven university economists from across the United States with expertise on state and local taxes to participate in a **Junior Scholar program** through the **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy**.

Ullrich led a student trip to Peru and Bolivia in May 2013 that prompted the creation of a Winthrop Microfinance project to fully fund local business projects. Another trip to Panama and Bolivia is in the works for 2015.

Originally from Athens, Georgia, Ullrich holds a B.B.A. in economics from the **University of Georgia** and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the **University of Tennessee**. Prior to graduate school, Ullrich worked as a business consultant for **Ernst & Young**, specializing in executive compensation determination.

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