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Distinguished Professor Marilyn Smith Will Deliver Commencement Address

Winthrop University

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Distinguished Professor Marilyn Smith Will Deliver Commencement Address

Quick Facts

- Marilyn Smith, professor of management and Winthrop's 2013 Distinguished Professor, said she will talk about change. Like many professionals and educators who have had to learn technology for a rapidly changing world, Smith said she has had to adapt her teaching skills to help prepare business students for a global world.
- Winthrop last had a commencement speaker in May 2007. Smith's message will be heard by 274 December graduates and their guests attending the Dec. 14 undergraduate ceremony at Winthrop Coliseum.



Marilyn Smith

ROCK HILL, S.C. – Winthrop University will add a commencement speaker for this **December's undergraduate ceremony**, and **Distinguished Professor Marilyn Smith** from the **College of Business Administration** will convey the inspirational message.

Smith, professor of management and **Winthrop's 2013 Distinguished Professor**, said she will talk about change. Like many professionals and educators who have had to learn technology for a rapidly changing world, Smith said she has had to adapt her teaching skills to help prepare business students for a global world.

Winthrop last had a commencement speaker in May 2007. Smith's message will be heard by 331 December and August graduates and their guests attending the **Dec. 14 undergraduate ceremony** at **Winthrop Coliseum**.

Smith has been an integral part of Winthrop's leadership during her 24-year tenure. She has served as chair of the **Faculty Conference** and faculty representative to the **Winthrop Board of Trustees**, as the first director of general education, and as a member of the **Graduate Council** and graduate petitions committee. She currently serves as coordinator for the **College of Business Administration's sustainable business option** and co-chairs the college's effort to revise its undergraduate core curriculum.

Professionally, Smith has been a judge for the **South Carolina Governor's Quality Award** as well as an examiner and trainer for the esteemed **Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award**.

As a **scholar**, she produces articles that are related to quality management, general education, web-based learning, ethics and student development. As a **student advisor**, career counselor and mentor to undergraduate and graduate students alike, Smith integrates her research into her teaching. She modifies her pedagogical methods and experiments with varying approaches to best provide students with a thorough knowledge and experience they need for life after Winthrop.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in mathematics from **East Tennessee State University**, Smith worked in the area of statistical quality control for **Holston Defense Corporation**, then as an inventory control supervisor for **Burroughs Corporation**. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. in industrial engineering at **Virginia Tech**.

Winthrop will recognize its **December graduate students** at a **separate ceremony** on Dec. 12. At that 7 p.m. event at **Winthrop Coliseum**, 92 students will receive their master's or specialist degrees.

Both the Dec. 12 and 14 ceremonies may be viewed by computer via a live stream.

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