Dear Friends:

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle once observed that “quality is not an act, it is a habit.”

A little over a century ago, Dr. David Bancroft Johnson, Winthrop’s founding president, noted that nothing of quality can be secured “without hard, persistent, earnest, faithful work.”

A few years later, 20th-century American industrialist Henry Ford added an ethical dimension to those statements by noting that “quality means doing it right when no one is looking.”

Quality is Winthrop University’s standard in all we do. Since quality is sometimes difficult to define, especially in these rapidly changing times, Winthrop prefers that knowledgeable, independent third parties — such as national or regional accrediting agencies — regularly assess Winthrop quality against the latest national best practices in higher education. These independent assessments in recent years have brought Winthrop an increasing level of national recognition for both quality and value, as well as creating the campus mantra that doing things in a qualitative way is “the Winthrop way.”

For almost a quarter of a century, the framework for doing things “the Winthrop way” has been Winthrop’s Vision of Distinction, a dynamic process of visioning, planning, implementing, evaluating, reflecting and then visioning anew to keep Winthrop abreast of changing times and ready to guide the students of each new generation in completing their degrees. The pages ahead are Winthrop’s Vision of Distinction initiatives for 2012-2013 — my final academic year before retiring as president after 24 years.

As the campus prepares for this transition, Winthrop’s Vision of Distinction will continue, as always, to be fulfilled by faculty and staff members who dedicate their professional lives to ensuring that Winthrop will be — and will be recognized as — one of the best institutions of its kind anywhere.

At Winthrop, that is our habit — and now a Winthrop tradition as well.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. DiGiorgio
President
To claim distinction, an institution of higher education must meet recognized standards of excellence and achieve uniqueness.

Winthrop University will attain distinction as a medium-sized, comprehensive teaching university identified with and committed to offering national-caliber academic programs.

Winthrop will be a community of learners characterized by shared values and a common purpose.

Winthrop will attract an academically able, diverse and socially responsible student body that will be challenged by a highly competent and diverse faculty and staff.

Winthrop will be academically demanding, offering professional programs predicated upon a liberal arts foundation. The university will emphasize personalized undergraduate education and graduate professional education while deliberately maintaining an appropriate size — large enough to offer extensive programming, yet small enough to serve students as individuals.

Winthrop will provide challenging instruction in high-quality facilities that nurture the intellectual and cultural life of its students.

The personal growth of students will be fostered through required critical issues and cultural event programs, as well as through a wide array of co-curricular activities, intramurals and recreation, athletics, leadership development, and self-government.

Winthrop will foster a clear sense of place and contribution among students, faculty, and staff of diverse ethnic backgrounds, and cultural and intellectual interests, serving as a model of the enriched pluralistic world that can exist beyond the campus.

As a result, Winthrop will be recognized as among the best comprehensive teaching universities in the nation. It will be known as a disciplined community where the traditions of excellent teaching, creative scholarship and public service are identified, encouraged and visibly supported.

Through careful management of resources and enrollments, Winthrop will be secure among other fine institutions, public and private, giving Winthrop the distinction that marks it a peer among the finest institutions of its kind.
The Vision for Winthrop

Winthrop University will be —
and will be recognized as —
one of the best universities of its kind.
The Winthrop Community

Strategic Value

Winthrop University will be a community of learners, dedicated to intellectual, cultural, personal and social growth. All students will be involved in the academic and co-curricular life of the campus. Faculty and staff will encourage the full involvement of students in their own education, in and out of the classroom. The climate of Winthrop will be one in which understanding of differences is a way of life and the integrity of each person is a given. Individuals will be valued for the creations, achievements, and contributions with which each enriches the campus. Winthrop will cherish the gifts of all its people of both genders and all races, religions and ethnic origins. Winthrop will provide an environment that establishes a sense of common purpose and school spirit, promotes an inclusive cultural environment, and fosters the overall maturation, intellectual and ethical development of each student.
Strategic Initiatives

1. To ensure Winthrop University continues to offer its students a first-class educational experience, consistent with the progress of the times and the needs and expectations of citizens living in a global context both socially and economically, the Winthrop community will:
   - Engage as appropriate in opportunities to support the work of the Search and Selection Committee for the tenth president of Winthrop University.
   - Prepare the Winthrop campus community for the transition to the tenth president of Winthrop University in summer 2013.
   - Continue to manage available resources and invest in Winthrop’s future as needed, with emphasis on three priority areas:
     - Ensuring the continuing national-caliber quality of the academic experience at Winthrop.
     - Continuing to provide a safe and secure campus.
     - Continuing recruitment of the high-achieving, socially responsible and inclusive student body for which Winthrop is known.

2. To build on its record of nationally recognized quality and value while ensuring the continued availability of the distinctive Winthrop Experience for students of the future, Winthrop in 2012-13 will continue to implement the Global Learning Initiative by encouraging and tracking the integration of global learning and awareness across students’ Winthrop experience, with particular emphasis on deepening learning opportunities in the Touchstone core courses.

3. To become well-prepared for such time as when the national and state economy recover to the point that Winthrop is able to consider compensation improvement initiatives for faculty and staff, Winthrop in 2012-13 will build upon the previous year’s compensation study by developing a process for an annual update of salary information using latest data.

4. To broaden and deepen defined opportunities for a fully engaged campus community and to take advantage of best practices in social media experiences involving members of the campus community and those beyond, Winthrop will conduct a comprehensive audit of the Winthrop admissions website with a focus on new student engagement and recruitment, integrating social web elements and incorporating strategy suggestions for enhancing the admissions page visit experiences.

5. To build upon its statewide recognition in energy management and recycling and advance Winthrop toward being a sustainable university, Winthrop will:
• Initiate integration of the campuswide sustainability policy into campus activities and planning.
• Create and implement a campuswide sustainable-purchasing policy.
• Seek partnerships that will improve campus sustainability efforts in recycling, waste management and energy efficiency.
• Seek selected grants, green certifications, and other awards/recognition that will affirm and build on Winthrop’s commitment to sustainability.

6. To enrich the range of perspectives contributing to student learning, Winthrop will develop estimates of personnel and fiscal resource requirements necessary to establish a pilot program for bringing recognized leaders and innovators in various creative and professional fields to the campus through “in residence” programs tailored to their respective availability.

7. To help ensure that all members of the Winthrop community have a shared understanding of federal Title IX laws and regulations regarding both what constitutes appropriate personal behavior in an academic setting and what steps must be taken to pursue any instances of suspected sexual misconduct involving or affecting any member of the campus community, Winthrop will:
• Designate a Title IX coordinator for the campus who will oversee all processes related to any suspected or alleged Title IX violation.
• Develop a systematic approach to promulgating Winthrop’s updated sexual misconduct policy and embedding its tenets into the values and culture of the campus.

8. To help ensure the safety of the Winthrop University campus for the youngest of learners, Winthrop will develop a policy and related protocol that build upon current processes for protecting children who come to campus to participate in various programs.

9. To assess the potential for expansion of the Winthrop community of learners to include an active retiree residential village adjacent to campus, Winthrop will conduct a targeted market survey and work with specialists in the field to be informed by national best practices in such initiatives.

10. To recognize the contribution and expertise of Winthrop retirees and enhance their continued engagement in the life of the campus, Winthrop will develop a plan to encourage retiree participation in campus programming, activities and services.
The Student Body

Strategic Value

Winthrop University will enroll an achievement-oriented, culturally diverse and socially responsible undergraduate student body that will benefit from a challenging education offered in a residential setting, supported by a full array of services that are consistent with the best practices nationally.

Successful undergraduate applicants will have demonstrated both academic competence and a commitment to meaningful community involvement. Winthrop will increasingly attract South Carolina’s best students as well as those highly qualified students from beyond South Carolina whose presence will add to the diversity and enrichment of the student body. Winthrop will be an institution of choice for historically underrepresented students who will have demonstrated achievement through both traditional and non-traditional measures.

Winthrop will also enroll a cadre of graduate and continuing students in a selected array of high-quality graduate and continuing professional education programs. Successful graduate applicants will have demonstrated ability for advanced study at the master’s degree level and beyond.
**Strategic Initiatives**

1. To fulfill its commitment to achieve progress toward planned enrollment growth and student academic success among various members of its learning community, Winthrop this year will:
   - Work to maintain federal funding in support of recruitment and retention programs, e.g., TRiO, McNair Scholars, and LEAP.
   - In cooperation with area schools, continue to determine the appropriate structure, program content, and marketing plan for creating and promoting the “Winthrop Academy” to enable qualified students to experience campus-level academic challenges that will encourage their eventual application to Winthrop, and enable qualified high school students to earn dual credit toward a college degree at Winthrop.

2. To increase the number of students matriculating to degree completion and provide a high quality Winthrop experience, Winthrop will continue to balance in-state and out-of-state recruitment and enrollment of all populations, including new freshmen, transfer students, international and non-traditional students, as well as graduate and summer session students, by:
   - Continuing to strengthen the appeal of Winthrop to transfer, adult and veteran student populations by:
     - Launching a Resource Center for Adult Students to be housed in University College.
     - Reviewing best practices and outlining steps needed to achieve formal certification as a “Military Friendly School” as a part of implementing its plan for the recruitment, financial support, and student services support of veterans.
   - Continuing to develop and implement data collection and management systems across divisions to support existing student retention and persistence efforts, such as the Academic Success Center, the Honors Program, and the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, and new efforts such as the Resource Center for Adult Students.
   - Drawing on national best practices to create a systematic way for Winthrop University to track student success and graduate outcomes to provide valid data and affiliated stories to support student recruitment, university marketing, grant applications and other institutional needs.
Strategic Value

Winthrop University will offer academic programs that challenge high-achieving students and meet nationally established standards of quality. These programs will be continually reviewed with the assistance of external consultants and accrediting agencies to ensure that students are challenged at their highest level of ability. Further, these reviews will ensure that courses of study and the knowledge offered are consonant with current research and methodology. Winthrop will impart to its students the knowledge, skills, experience and values necessary to enrich their lives, and to meet the needs and challenges of the society in which they will live as citizens and professionals.

To this end, Winthrop will recruit and maintain a diverse and inclusive faculty of national caliber. It will support its faculty as they enhance their abilities as effective teachers and as they develop and enrich their knowledge and skills as scholars, researchers, practitioners and creative artists in their disciplines. Moreover, Winthrop will support high-quality instruction and research in every field of study offered by developing and maintaining at an appropriate level its classrooms, studios and performance spaces, as well as its informational and instructional technology resources.
Strategic Initiatives

1. To ensure Winthrop University continues to fulfill its mandate to be a “first-class institution of higher education” that from time to time adds “programs and features as the progress of the times may require,” Winthrop in 2012-13 will:
   • Address market demands for credentials that can augment and enhance the quality and value of a Winthrop degree by:
     o Exploring digital credentials.
     o Emphasizing development of concentration options within degree programs.
     o Exploring the development of concentrations or tracks within or among existing degree programs to support the professional goals of 21st-century students.
   • Complete approval processes and develop marketing plans for offering the Bachelor of Arts in individualized studies in Fall 2013.

2. To ensure its continued leadership in offering national-caliber academic programs consistent with emerging best practices, Winthrop will maintain its existing 100 percent national program accreditation and national caliber academic standards by:
   • Hosting 2012-2013 site visits by:
     o Interior design (Council for Interior Design): Fall 2012
     o B.S. in social work and M.S.W programs (Council on Social Work Education): Site visit in Fall 2012.
     o Music (all programs): Spring 2013
     o Art and design (all programs except interior design): April 2013
   • Conduct program self-studies in preparation for 2013-14 site visits:
     o Master of Liberal Arts (February 2013)
     o B.A. and M.A. in history (February 2013)
     o B.S. in environmental sciences and B.A. in environmental studies (February 2013)
     o B.S. in exercise science (February 2013)
     o B.S. in digital information design (April 2013)
     o M.S. in sport and fitness administration (April 2013)
   • Participate in external program review of economics in Fall 2012

3. Continue a campus-wide examination of the impact of the Touchstone Program on student learning and development with the goal of providing the best and most relevant curriculum for today’s students, including a review of the Touchstone Program’s relationship to majors and student academic progress.

4. To enhance the sense of community and attractiveness of Winthrop for particularly high-performing students and prospective students, Winthrop will continue to identify and complete incrementally the steps necessary to launch a Winthrop Honors College in the near future.

5. To enhance leadership learning opportunities for all students, Winthrop will broaden and refine leadership as an academic pursuit on campus by:
   • Promoting the leadership studies opportunity to students.
   • Exploring development of a minor in leadership studies.
• Exploring leadership studies scholarship opportunities.

6. To broaden access to Winthrop University courses and support on-time degree completion, Winthrop will continue to:
   • Explore and support the expansion of more flexible offerings (deliveries, scheduling) for both individual courses and entire programs.
   • Develop online course instruction protocols, policies, and instructional planning models while continuing to provide faculty development opportunities for online instruction.

7. To enhance opportunities for both Winthrop alums and other graduate school prospects, the Graduate School at Winthrop will work in collaboration with graduate programs across the institution to:
   • Develop and enhance student and program services.
   • Investigate diverse program delivery methods.
   • Formulate strategies for the growth and development of graduate education, including effective and efficient recruitment of and financial support for graduate students.

8. To meet 21st-century students’ learning and study preferences, Winthrop will implement and evaluate Dacus Library’s new 24-hour access.
Facilities and Environs

Strategic Value

Winthrop University will provide and maintain instructional, research, performance, exhibition and recreational facilities that contribute to the realization of its mission as a distinctive, comprehensive, residential learning university. In so doing, Winthrop will preserve the unique, historic character of its campus while adapting existing facilities for contemporary use and broadening its range of housing options in order to provide a contemporary physical environment of exceptional beauty in which students, faculty and staff live, learn and work. Studio and performance spaces, as well as informational and instructional technology resources, will be upgraded regularly to provide students with professional environments similar to those they will encounter in their careers or in advanced study.
Strategic Initiatives

1. To ensure timely upgrades to various facilities that will serve the academic and personal development needs of Winthrop students over time, Winthrop will evaluate potential uses of newly available campus spaces.

2. To preserve and protect Winthrop’s nationally recognized historic spaces, enabling them to continue to be adapted to contemporary uses, Winthrop will:
   - Develop a systematic way of evaluating academic and other spaces with the goal of creating both a short- and long-range protocol for facilities’ renovation/ refurbishment.
   - Update cost estimates for replacement of Winthrop/W.T.S. Building roof and drainage system.
   - Continue to develop plans and cost estimates to repair McBryde Hall roof and interior ceiling beams.
   - Continue to develop plans and cost estimates for the phased upgrade of Byrnes Auditorium.

3. To continue to advance the systematic upgrade of residence hall spaces over time, Winthrop will complete the 18-month refurbishment of Phelps Hall in time for Fall 2012 move-in.

4. To increase efficiencies and opportunities for collaboration among its personnel, Winthrop will consolidate the operations of the Division of University Development and Alumni Relations within Tillman Hall.

5. To increase safety for campus community members, Winthrop will work with city, county and state officials as necessary to improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular movement on public streets leading to and around the campus, including Cherry Road and White Street projects under the ‘Pennies for Progress’ program.

6. To nurture school spirit, encourage inter-collegiate athletics participation and facilitate way-finding for athletics program visitors, Winthrop will update signage and other graphics at Winthrop Coliseum.

7. To ensure the long-term development needs of the university are addressed, Winthrop will evaluate and pursue land acquisitions as necessary.
Support Services

Strategic Value

Winthrop University will provide support systems and services to advance its goals and the work of its faculty, staff and students in pursuing those goals. In addition, Winthrop will have the organizational flexibility and human resource policies necessary to support the professional growth and development of faculty and staff, and to make the most effective and efficient use of their talents and experiences.

Winthrop will provide a framework for the management of information technology, and will ensure that information technology resources are used effectively and efficiently in support of the mission, goals and objectives of the university. Information technology resources at Winthrop will conform to national and international standards and exist as convenient and dependable utilities.

All fiscal, logistical, technological, human resources, and other support services will be consistent with the best practices nationally and will enable the smooth and efficient operation of the university.
Strategic Initiatives

1. To ensure that Winthrop’s technological capacity remains current with the needs and expectations of an institution of its mission and quality, Winthrop will:
   • Continue to implement and expand uses of the following features of the university’s newly enhanced mission-critical administrative computing system:
     o Banner interface with University procurement cards
     o Banner Workflow
     o Banner Travel and Expense
     o Banner Document Management Systems
     o Luminis V, which will create an updated platform for Winthrop’s Wingspan portal for online information and personnel processes (once beta site success is achieved)
     o Banner 9, which over time will increase user-friendliness in all Banner programs.

2. Provide training and on-going support for faculty, staff, and administrators in implementing and utilizing:
   • Faculty data software that will streamline reporting requirements for faculty.
   • Analytic software to support data-informed decision-making for program management, student learning, finance, advancement, development and accountability purposes.

3. Continue to review potential usefulness to Winthrop of various third-party software systems and in 2012-13, implement Winthrop’s plan to:
   • Acquire and deploy systems meeting Winthrop University’s top-priority needs, including a successor to Recruitment Plus in Admissions and a new student medical records system.
   • Develop a schedule for acquisition and deployment of other systems according to Winthrop’s priority needs, e.g. critical incident management software, university-wide space management system and a one-card system allowing members of the campus community to utilize special accounts for purchases at selected off-campus businesses.

4. To ensure that Winthrop’s technological infrastructure remains current and capable of growing with new technology and is reliable and dependable, Winthrop will consider:
   • New options for unified telephone services, by continuing research and developing proposals to match industry standard best practices.
   • Upgrading campus fiber optic speeds and infrastructure between buildings to accommodate increased demands from streaming applications, security cameras, and other emerging technology.
   • Installing armored fiber optic cable to minimize downtime due to environmental and animal damage.
   • Refining network performance issues through increased capacity, improved routing, additional redundancy, and better security for hard-wired and wireless networking.
   • Replacing switches and routers and upgrading network closets.
   • Upgrading servers to provide performance and functionality to meet user demands.

5. To ensure Winthrop’s deployment and use of mobile devices are consistent with national best practices and emerging technologies, Winthrop will:
   • Revisit and revise as necessary its policies regarding various types of devices and their uses.
   • Explore implications of mobile platforms and their uses within an academic community.
Partnerships and Collaborations

Strategic Value

Winthrop University will be an effective advocate for its needs and those of higher education in general. The university will maintain active communications and relationships with its alumni, other institutions of higher education, educational associations, primary and secondary schools, elected and appointed public officials, and business and other external communities.

Winthrop will engage in an active program to heighten public awareness of its educational and cultural resources in the state, the region and the nation. In addition, Winthrop will be a source of significant public service in economic, educational, and cultural affairs in South Carolina and in the Rock Hill-Charlotte-Metrolina region.

The Winthrop University Alumni Association will provide assistance by communicating with alumni and offering programs for current and former students to foster their lifelong relationship with Winthrop, and by encouraging continued support of the university’s development, traditions and reputation. The Winthrop University Foundation and Real Estate Foundation will provide private financial support for initiatives that enhance the Winthrop experience, particularly in the areas of scholarship endowments, faculty enrichment and specific projects that help ensure the university’s success in meeting its goals.

The creative work of nine Winthrop University sculpture students was on display for thousands of area visitors and golf enthusiasts at the 2012 Wells Fargo Championship.
Strategic Initiatives

1. To ensure Winthrop will have the level of complementary resources necessary to provide an added margin of excellence to student experiences and campus life in general, Winthrop will assist the Winthrop University Foundation in the public phase of the plan to garner $50 million in external support for the goals outlined in ‘Distinction: The Campaign for Winthrop’ by:
   • Increasing awareness about the many distinctive facets of students’ Winthrop Experience.
   • Increasing the number of people who have their own Winthrop Experiences through involvement in campus programs, cultural and community events and intercollegiate athletics.
   • Expanding Winthrop’s outreach to private grantor organizations whose missions and values align with Winthrop’s mission and values.

2. To ensure Winthrop’s continuing capacity to respond to public policy trends while concurrently enabling Winthrop to meet current and future student and alumni needs, Winthrop will continue to engage with a variety of public officials to:
   • Obtain timely information about emerging trends and public policy initiatives at all levels of government.
   • Continue to broaden and deepen understanding of Winthrop’s role in helping South Carolina and South Carolinians to benefit
from opportunities for economic, social and civic progress.

- Advance Winthrop’s cause at the federal level, as federal funding opportunities become available for public higher education and as federal legislation and regulations that could support or threaten Winthrop emerge.

- Continue to work with state officials to define, develop and implement initiatives that will best serve Winthrop and its students within the context of state and federal public policy movement toward “Accountability Based Funding” models.

3. To advance its contribution to activities that assist South Carolina in meeting changing workforce needs, creating economic development opportunities and positioning the state to be competitive in a global economy, Winthrop will continue to engage and inform a wide variety of existing and new businesses and business-related entities — e.g., the regional Business Roundtable — that are partners and stakeholders in the state’s future.

4. To enhance opportunity for relationships between and among alumni, current students preparing for the world of work or further study, friends of the university and other stakeholders with whom Winthrop works, Winthrop will broaden its use of alumni communications capacities to affirm Winthrop’s reputation for quality and value and advance its causes through coordinated outreach activities.

5. To promote progress in meeting student expectations for a contemporary ‘college town’ feel to campus environs, Winthrop will collaborate with the City of Rock Hill, Rock Hill Economic Development and others to carry out phased implementation of the College Town Action Plan by:

- Working with local officials and the S.C. Department of Transportation to incorporate ‘college town’ design features in public improvement projects, particularly Oakland Avenue and Cherry Road, as well as connections to downtown Rock Hill.

- Continue working with various business operators and property owners in the area to broaden participation in the College Town Business Association and engage members in related initiatives.

- Working with potential private sector partners as needed to engage them in implementation of the College Town Action Plan.

- Working with the City of Rock Hill and the Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation in support of their overall economic development goals, with particular emphasis on:
  - The Rock Hill Jobs Initiative.
The Cherry Road Corridor Business/Land Use Study.
The next phase of The Bleachery redevelopment initiative.
An active retiree village concept near campus.
A city trolley initiative to connect campus and downtown.
The Downtown East project.
The conversion of downtown Woolworth property to a mixed use development.
‘Knowledge Corridor’ development.

6. To create an array of opportunities for Winthrop students to engage in activities related to the 2012 U.S. presidential election, Winthrop and its West Forum on Politics and Public Policy will:
   • Work with officials of the City of Charlotte and other planning organizations involved in hosting the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., in September 2012, to involve S.C. students in educational events with prominent attendees.
   • Work with partisan and independent organizations to bring presidential candidates to the Winthrop campus in the campaign leading up to the Presidential election in November 2012.

7. To ensure a continuing high level of collaboration between Winthrop University leadership and key external stakeholders, public officials and private sector leaders, Winthrop will develop a plan of expedited opportunities for engagement with principals in these groups as part of the transition to the tenth president of Winthrop.
Winthrop University and Core Commitments

In partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and the John Templeton Foundation, Winthrop University has joined with a select cadre of other leading institutions across the country to affirm and emphasize that dimensions of personal and social responsibility are a fundamental aspect of meaningful higher education for the 21st century.

At Winthrop, this important initiative manifests itself through institutional expectation that all members of the campus community will devote attention to development of the following dimensions of personal and social responsibility:

1. Achieving excellence
2. Cultivating personal and academic integrity
3. Contributing to a larger community
4. Taking seriously the perspectives of others
5. Developing competence in ethical and moral reasoning.

By infusing these commitments across institutional life, Winthrop will offer students the means to deepen and strengthen their capacities to live, learn and lead for a lifetime.

Excerpted from the Report of the President’s Task Force on the Nature and Character of the University
Money Matters

The old picture of Winthrop revenue: 1990-91

Student Tuition and Fees 53.4%
State Appropriations 10.8%
Auxiliary Enterprises 9.6%
Contracts and Grants 21.7%
Other 4.5%

Winthrop’s projected revenues for fiscal year 2012-13

Student Tuition and Fees 53.4%
State Appropriations 40%
Auxiliary Enterprises 15%
Contracts and Grants 11%
Other 6%