

Jessie Dennen, talent acquisition consultant

Dennen acquired 20 years of experience as a strategic early stage connector and entrepreneur advocate in Silicon Valley. Dennen has focused over the past decades in building community with emphasis on inclusion while target architecting progressive teams to advance organizations and products. She currently is a talent acquisition consultant with Rootstock Software as well as PCI Pal.

Helen Nugent '82, managing director for wealth management, BNY Mellon Wealth Management

Nugent joined BNY Mellon, the global leader in investment management and investment services, in 2013 as the managing director of sales. She oversees a team of five sales directors across a six-state region and drives regional professional recruitment efforts. She came to BNY Mellon from Northern Trust where she held a number of leadership roles over a period of 18 years. Nugent earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Winthrop in 1982, and she has held many leadership roles in community and professional organizations.

Jody Guy Gaulin '78, former global quality director with Johnson Controls

Gaulin enjoyed a 38-year career in manufacturing management with just two Oconee County, South Carolina, companies. She started in human resources at WestPoint Stevens, served as the first female plant manager in the company, and later served as director of supply chain and logistics. Gaulin worked until 2017 as the global quality director for the battery components group at Johnson Controls. Gaulin earned a bachelor's degree in political science at Winthrop in 1978.

Felicia Pope '04, vice president of marketing and business development, ArrowPointe Federal Credit Union

Pope joined ArrowPointe Federal Credit Union in 2007. She previously worked as the marketing manager for M/I Homes, Inc. Pope also is a motivational speaker who specializes in the area of stress relief and stress management. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, with a concentration in marketing, from Winthrop in 2004, and she is a charter member of the Winthrop Women's Coalition.

Melissa Carsten, associate professor of management, Winthrop University

Carsten joined the Winthrop faculty in 2008. Her exceptional teaching has resulted in her receiving Winthrop's 2016 Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award and the College of Business Administration's 2015 Wells Fargo Outstanding Teaching Award. Carsten has developed an outstanding portfolio of intellectual contribution. She has had articles accepted for publication in relevant and reputable refereed journals, published books on leadership and followership, contributed chapters to scholarly books, and has presented at national conferences.

Elaine Whitton Davis '73, realtor and former information technology developer

Davis spent nearly 30 years managing information technology development with Celanese Corp. She transitioned careers and became the co-founder and co-owner of Homes in the Piedmont with Allen Tate Realtors in Rock Hill. Davis, a member of the Winthrop Women's Coalition Leadership Council, established the Whitton Speaker Series in Winthrop's College of Business Administration to provide free or low-cost access to current state-of-the-art knowledge relevant to business practice.