



## **2025 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award Mr. Bob Hambright, Class of 1974**

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Each year, Winthrop University recognizes an alumnus for selfless dedication of time, energy and talent in service to this institution and others. The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award captures this high honor.

The 2025 recipient is Mr. Bob Hambright, Class of 1974, who has a decorated international career in the construction industry and a commitment to leadership development.

Mr. Hambright earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University in 1970 and a Master of Business Administration from Winthrop College in 1974.

Mr. Hambright began his career in the construction industry in 1970. He held a variety of positions including project engineer, project manager, construction manager, regional manager and vice president. He served as president of J.A. Jones Construction, one of the nation's largest construction companies, during his 25-year tenure.

He joined Balfour Beatty Construction in 2001 as the Division President and Chief Executive Officer. His primary responsibilities included executive management and leadership of the Southeast Division office in Charlotte, North Carolina, and was also responsible for offices in Atlanta, Georgia, and Raleigh, North Carolina, as well as the Military Housing business and corporate accounts. He was also a member of the company's Executive Leadership Team, serving to guide and direct the strategies, future growth and direction of the entire company. During his time at Balfour Beatty, the company was an industry-leading provider of general contracting, at-risk construction management, design-build and privatized military housing services for public and private sector clients across the country. Mr. Hambright retired from Balfour Beatty Construction in 2010.

Mr. Hambright has been an involved alumnus at both his alma maters. At Clemson University, he was a member of the Clemson Foundation Board from 2011-2022. As Chair, he led the Foundation through a restructuring to improve donor stewardship to form separate entities focused on fiduciary business matters and philanthropy, now called the Order of the Oak. He also was instrumental in launching an effort within the Foundation Board to raise funds for the "Clemson University Foundation Tomorrow Begins Today Scholarship Quasi-Endowment" to generate more unrestricted scholarships, one of the university's top priorities. Within the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences, Mr. Hambright and his wife, Susan, have established the Hambright Scholars Program; the Robert B. and Susan B. Hambright Annual Leadership Program in Engineering to create awareness of the power and impact that can be achieved through leadership; and the Hambright Distinguished Professorship in Engineering Leadership to promote the development of more and better leaders.



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In 2017, he was awarded the Thomas Green Clemson Academy of Engineers and Scientists, a special recognition to alumni and friends of the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences who have made major contributions to their professions and have brought significant distinction to the college and university. In 2021, he received the Clemson Alumni Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

At Winthrop University, Mr. Hambright has served on the College of Business and Technology Advisory Board and as a speaker at the M.B.A. Lecture Series, attended by M.B.A. students and faculty. He was featured in a 1999 Summer Winthrop Update article, "Hambright makes family, work, God his priorities," which noted that J.A. Jones Construction, where he was president at the time, built the west wing of the Winthrop Training School in 1912. He served on the Winthrop University Foundation Board from 2001-2009. In 2008, he was inducted as a charter member into the College of Business and Technology's Pinnacle Leadership Society for his contributions to the university and the community. He was featured in the fall 2008 Winthrop Magazine in a feature article entitled "A Plan of Change: Bob Hambright Thrives on Opportunities to Progress." In the article he attributed Winthrop with giving him professional confidence. "I went to Winthrop, and it gave me the personal confidence to know I could go out and do anything I wanted to," he said. In 2025, Mr. Hambright joined the Winthrop Honors College Leadership Council.

Since retiring, he has served on many boards, including the Appalachian State Foundation, Charlotte Center City Partners, Crossnore School, Clemson Foundation, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Discovery Place Foundation, Clemson Order of the Oak and Middle Fork Greenway Project. He has also served as an Executive Coach at the Center for Intentional Leadership.

He has served as a guest lecturer on the subject of "Changing the World by Developing Better Leaders" at the Clemson University College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences; the Winthrop University College of Business and Technology; and the Walker College of Business School at Appalachian State University.

Traveling is a major priority for Mr. Hambright. He resides in Blowing Rock, North Carolina; Naples, Florida; and Frisco, Colorado, with his wife, Susan. They have three children - Steffan, Ben and Matt – and six grandchildren.