



2021 Outstanding Young Alumni Award Chelsea Brown '14

Winthrop University recognizes young alumni, age 35 or younger, whose service to the university, service to the community and professional achievements have reflected positively on all alumni and the university.

The recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Young Alumni Award is Chelsea Brown '14.

Brown, the Corporate Purpose Specialist for Nasdaq, coordinates cross-functional efforts to drive engagement, programs, and partnerships with nonprofit and for-profit partners internationally, boasts nearly a decade of experience in philanthropy, fundraising, sponsorships and grantmaking.

Brown served as the community philanthropy and partnership specialist for The SEED School of Maryland, where she worked closely on corporate and foundation partnerships on social responsibility policies, programs and goals in education and diversity initiatives, cultivated grants and gifts, and implemented strategies on funding partnerships, and volunteerism.

She also is community-minded and civically engaged, holding roles as a board member for the RISE Arts Center of Baltimore; a member of the Conservation Education Advisory Group for the National Aquarium; on the Board of Directors for the Winthrop University Foundation; and many more. Brown is the co-founder and Director of Strategic Partnerships with the Black Greek Festival, which supports local Black-owned businesses and community service tackling homelessness, and more. The inaugural, DC-based festival, held this past summer, focused on continuing the mission of Divine Nine organizations. In partnership with organizations such as Target, Walmart, Cricket Wireless and Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey, the weekend events included virtual panel discussions for human service workers, a virtual stroll off, the Black Greek Fest Festival and Brunch Olympics which channeled support for 45 local Black-owned businesses. Through Black Greek Fest Foundation, BGF provided more than 500 care packages for people experiencing homelessness.

Her hard work has been recognized by Forbes Magazine, which named her one of its Under 30 Scholars; the University of Maryland as a Do Good Institute Philanthropy Fellow; the Aspen Institute's Philanthropy and Social Innovation Program as a William Randolph Hearst Fellow; and in 2020 highlighted in the BlackHer's study on Black philanthropy, "Black Women to Watch in Philanthropy".

She also received the Diverse Communities Scholarship through the Association of Fundraising Professionals International Conference and the Charles R. Stephens Scholarship for the African American Development Officers/CASE Conference on Diverse Philanthropy and Leadership.

Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with a minor in Marketing from Winthrop University in 2014. While a student, she was an active member of the Winthrop Association of Black Journalists and the Xi Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a peer mentor, and a staff writer for The Roddey-McMillan Record.



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At her alma mater, she established a scholarship fund in her name, which is given annually to a Winthrop student who is either a graduate of The SEED School of Maryland, or a student from Columbia, South Carolina, pursuing a mass communication degree. She completed a Master of Public Policy in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University of Maryland in 2021.