



NAME

David McDonald '01

RESIDENCE

Greenville, South Carolina

DEGREE

B.A., History

OCCUPATION

Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools,
Greenville County Schools

BIOGRAPHY

David McDonald '01 earned his B.A. in History and Secondary Education at Winthrop University. A native of Lancaster, McDonald has lived in Greenville since 2013 where he serves as assistant superintendent for school leadership for Greenville County Schools. Prior to serving in that role, he served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Lancaster County School District.

McDonald began his Winthrop journey as a first generation college student in the fall of 1997.



During his time at Winthrop, he served as a student leader in many capacities including Orientation Leader, Peer Mentor, Resident Assistant, Student Government Association and others. He was recognized for his service as a student to Winthrop in 2001 with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. Since becoming an alumnus, McDonald has served Winthrop as a volunteer in numerous capacities including the Young Alumni Council, Annual Fund Loyalty Council, Winthrop Alumni Admissions Volunteer, Winthrop University Foundation Board and Executive Committee, Winthrop Real Estate Foundation Board and as a longtime member of the Winthrop Alumni Executive Board where he served as secretary, first vice president and president for two terms. During his time as president, the Alumni Association saw record programming offered to alumni, established numerous new volunteer opportunities, overhauled the organizational bylaws, introduced opportunities for more alumni to become members of the Alumni Executive Board, launched new technology to enhance the Winthrop alumni experience and spearheaded the annual campaign to have all board members as donors to Winthrop.

Winthrop has often invited McDonald back to campus to serve as a guest speaker at programs and classes. In 2011, he had the opportunity to serve as the keynote speaker at Convocation. He has presented to numerous groups in the Richard W. Riley College of Education and other campus groups. Winthrop awarded McDonald the Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2008 and again recognized him for his service in 2019 with the Winthrop Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

Professionally, McDonald has excelled in his role as an educator for his work in middle level education. He has served as a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, South Carolina Association for School Administrators, South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform and many others. In 2013, he was recognized as the South Carolina Middle Level Principal of the Year, in 2017 as the National Association for Middle Level Education as the National Educator of the Year and in 2020 as the Dr. Randy Wall Distinguished Service Award Recipient from the South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education.

In the community, McDonald remains active and has served as Boy Scouts of America District Chairman, Great Travelers Rest Chamber of Commerce, Indian Land Rotary Club, member of the YMCA board of Directors, Greenville Chamber of Commerce Leadership Greenville Graduate and others. He has also served in numerous roles as an alumni member of Tau Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity including a Chapter Advisor, Board of Advisors Chairman, Recruitment Coach, Province Advisor, Marketing and Publications Committee Member and Grand Province Advisor. In 2016, McDonald was inducted into the prestigious Southern Order of Honor and in 2019 at the 60th Biennial Conclave, he was awarded a Key Leader Award.

During his downtime, McDonald enjoys spending time with his ten adult nephews and nieces, two of whom are now Winthrop graduates.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

The moment I first stepped foot on the Winthrop University campus in 1997, I knew that my life would forever be impacted by the decision. Growing up in a single parent home with a parent who worked in a mill, I knew earning a degree would be life changing. Over the course of four years, Winthrop gave me so many incredible opportunities to become a leader and a scholar. I worked hard, took advantage of every opportunity I could and earned my degree. Thanks to the many who believed in me and supported me, I have dedicated the last 20 years as an alumnus working hard to ensure that Winthrop can be the game changer for everyone who enters the campus.

I have served on numerous boards and committees to help keep the Winthrop spirit alive and well for many generations to come. I have worked to recruit and retain students, helped with job placement of graduates, recruited numerous volunteers and much more. As a member of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees, I will make it my mission to ask difficult questions, help solve the many challenges that face our university and work hard to ensure Winthrop's lasting success for many more generations to come. I will work to ensure that alumni are recognized as more than just donors and seek ways to engage students in protecting the history of our alma mater while looking for new ways to serve an ever-changing future and ensure the strong financial stability of our university. I believe that a strong forward-thinking mission and vision for Winthrop is necessary to tackle the challenges of today while advancing at a rapid pace toward tomorrow. I will bring a passion for learning, experience with many areas of the university, a strong desire to enhance the Winthrop experience for alumni and current/future students. Most importantly, I believe that my love for Winthrop and willingness to serve will aid me in being a strong member of the Board of Trustees.