

Derrick Alridge '87, '92
2018 Alumni Professional Achievement Award

The Alumni Professional Achievement Award recognizes significant contributions alumni have made to their fields while exemplifying high moral and professional ethics. Derrick P. Alridge '87, '92 is being honored for his outstanding accomplishments in higher education with the 2018 Alumni Professional Achievement Award.

Alridge received a B.A. in history in 1987 and an M.Ed. in social science education in 1992 from Winthrop. After earning a Ph.D. in education from Pennsylvania State University, he was hired at the University of Georgia in 1997 as an assistant professor for social foundations of education.

He departed in 2011 for a faculty position with the University of Virginia. He is now a professor of education and an affiliate professor in The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies there. His scholarship focuses broadly on the history of U.S. education, with specializations in African-American intellectual history and the Black freedom struggle.

One of Alridge's career highlights has been the creation of Teachers in the Movement (TIM), which is a civil rights oral history project focused on interviews with elementary, secondary and university teachers and educators about their roles in the civil rights movement.

As TIM project director, Alridge worked with a research team to conduct on-camera interviews with educators—of all different races and social backgrounds—in Virginia, Maryland, Georgia and the Carolinas about their experiences.

In the last few years, Alridge has returned to Rock Hill to interview several retired teachers, including Cynthia Plair Roddey '67, Winthrop's first African-American graduate student. He also collaborated with Winthrop's Ellison Capers Palmer Jr. Professor of History Jason Silverman, Alridge's mentor and a consultant for TIM.

Alridge talked about his work earlier this year as keynote speaker at the City of Rock Hill's 15th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast.

The University of Virginia recently named Alridge the founding director of its Center for Race and Public Education in the South.

Alridge is also an author. He wrote "The Educational Thought of W.E.B. Du Bois: An Intellectual History" and is co-editor of "Message in the Music: Hip-Hop, History, and Pedagogy." He has another work in progress, "The Hip-Hop Mind: History, Ideas, and Social Consciousness," now under contract with the University of Wisconsin.

A former National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral fellow and National Endowment for the Humanities fellow, Alridge is an associate editor of The Journal of African American History and serves on the editorial board of the African American Intellectual History "Society's Black Perspectives." He is currently the president of the History of Education Society.