



2021 Alumni Distinguished Service Award Isaiah Venning '95, '00

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award recognizes a Winthrop alumna/us who significantly contributes to the quality of life in his or her community, the development of values and morals within others and serves as an outstanding citizen. Distinguished service may have been rendered with one's profession, church, charity, family or school on a national, state or local level. The recipient shall be a dedicated alumna/us who supports the growth and development of Winthrop through service to and/or support of established programs and objectives.

A two-time Winthrop University alumnus, Isaiah Venning '95, '00, demonstrates service every day on multiple levels.

In his local community of Rock Hill, Venning serves on the city's Community Relations Council, promoting respect for, appreciation of, and understanding of diversity of the community and its people. In his council role, he is a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, the Black History program and the National Race Equality Week committees. He has also served in leadership roles for Rock Hill Schools as former president of the School Improvement Council and as the current treasurer for the parent teacher organization (PTO) for Old Pointe Elementary School. He volunteers regularly at area schools, which earned him the district's Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2017.

With his Kappa Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Venning holds, or has held, a litany of leadership- and community-service – oriented roles, such as: public service chair, helping with Adopt-a-Highway and Rolling in Rock Hill; keeper of finance; and district coordinator for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s Big Brother/Big Sister program. He volunteers regularly at colleges, schools, churches and fraternity/sorority organization events educating individuals on ways to save for their financial future and how to get out of debt.

On the state level, Rock Hill Mayor John Gettys appointed Venning to serve on the Carolina Community Actions (CCA) Board to represent the public sector. CCA aims to promote the self-sufficiency of low-income people.

Venning currently serves on Winthrop's Board of Trustees as one of the two alumni-elected seats as an alumni representative. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1995 and an MBA from Winthrop in 2000. Venning currently works as a self-employed stock trader.