

Maggie Gamble '67, '71
2018 Alumni Distinguished Service Award

This 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.

The 2018 recipient is Maggie Gamble, a Kershaw resident who received her undergraduate degree in physical education from Winthrop College in 1967 and her master's degree in 1971. Those who nominated her say Gamble has represented Winthrop for more than 50 years as an outstanding professional and as someone who is very loyal to her alma mater.

In addition to teaching physical education, Gamble has held many jobs: as a bus driver training instructor for the South Carolina Department of Education, guidance counselor, assistant principal at Andrew Jackson High School, assistant principal at Lancaster High School, and principal at Heath Springs Elementary School.

While serving as principal at Heath Springs, the school was twice recognized with the School Incentive Award for improving test scores. In addition, Gamble recruited 30 business partners for the school and was the first school in Lancaster County to have a local area network of computers in each classroom.

Over the years, Gamble has served on accreditation teams, various committees and with education groups.

Recognized for her leadership skills, Gamble served on the Lancaster County School Board for 16 years and the Kershaw Town Council for four years. She also spent time on the Lancaster County Economic & Development Corp. as board member and chair and for several years on the S.C. School Board Association. Kershaw recognized her as its Citizen of the Year in 2006 and the S.C. School Board Association awarded her as Outstanding Board Member, Level VI, in 2013.

Gamble has served for many years as Reunion Chair for the Class of 1967, was a charter member of the Eagle Club and was named to the Farewell to Peabody Committee for the physical education's now demolished building. Winthrop's physical education department recognized Gamble as a Distinguished Alumna in 2002.

In retirement, Gamble continues to maintain a busy schedule. She has served on the Dreher High School Foundation Board of Directors, volunteered as an officer of the Lancaster Retired Educators Association and the United Way of Lancaster County.