



2023 Alumni Distinguished Service Award Mr. Timothy Hopkins '83

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award recognizes a Winthrop alumna/us who significantly contributes to the quality of life in their community, the development of overall values and morals within others and serves as an outstanding citizen. Distinguished service may have been rendered with one's community, church, charity, family and 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 2023 Alumni Distinguished Service Award recipient is Mr. Timothy Hopkins '83, '85, '00.

A three-time graduate of Winthrop University, Mr. Hopkins earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology in 1983, a Master of Education in 1985 and an Educational Specialist degree in 2000. He began his career as an admissions counselor in higher education 38 years ago. Upon completing his bachelor's degree, Mr. Hopkins worked for (then) Winthrop College recruiting new students throughout the southeastern United States.

Mr. Hopkins has spent the better part of his life championing the efforts to grow and develop students from the K-12 experience through their college years. He has held numerous roles in the public education system, including as guidance counselor, principal, director of assessment, executive director of instruction and his current role as deputy superintendent. He has made many positive impacts in the district, including expanding its early childhood development programs, expanding services to English Language Learners and implementing the district's teaching and learning programs. Under his supervision, three middle schools were named "Schools to Watch," and three district schools were named Palmetto's Finest schools.

He has been an active member of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators for many years. In 2021 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. He is a past recipient of the national Federal Programs Administrator of the Year Award.

Mr. Hopkins is a retired officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and serves as the Kershaw County School District's military community liaison. He has earned numerous military honors, including Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five oak leaf clusters, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Whether serving his county or on educational task forces, Mr. Hopkins has provided authentic leadership and wise counsel. He served as chairman of the Early Childhood Education Task Force at the South Carolina Department from 2005-06; trustee of the Fairfield Electric Co-op; president of the South Carolina Association of Title I Administrators from 2007-08; and executive board member of the Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center from 2001-03.



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Mr. Hopkins has always looked for ways to promote Winthrop and displays a genuine love for his alma mater. He has served as the Class of 1983 reunion gift chair; on the Annual Fund Board; Alumni Association Executive Board; past president and current member of the Kershaw County Alumni Chapter; and Winthrop Foundation Board. Mr. Hopkins recently completed 12 years as the Governor's Designee on the university's Board of Trustees, where he served on the Executive Committee and as chairman of the Committee on External Engagement and Athletics.

The Winthrop Alumni Association recognized Mr. Hopkins with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award in 2012, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an alumnus. In 2023, Mr. Hopkins and his wife, Jewel, established the Timothy and Jewel Hopkins Endowed Scholarship. This fund provides funds to support an undergraduate student majoring in education who plans to become public school teacher.

A native of Winnsboro, he is married to Mrs. Jewel Lee Hopkins '84. The couple resides in Lugoff and has two children, Corbin and Alexia.