



Distinguished Alumna in PESH  
Harold Hiott '85

Hal Hiott is from Lancaster, South Carolina and graduated from Winthrop College in 1985 with a degree in Physical Education with a Leisure Service option. He is being honored today for his outstanding service to the State of South Carolina in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Hal always had a passion for sports and recreation and was prominent as an undergraduate at Winthrop for his volunteerism and participation in campus sports and physical education extracurricular activities. A former professor noted that “Hal was a pillar of the Physical Education program and could be counted on for doing more than was expected. He had an innate ability to inspire his classmates and garnered the utmost respect and admiration from his peers and professors.”

While a student at Winthrop, Hal wasted no time gaining valuable work related experience as a volunteer at the Rock Hill YMCA as a Day Care Program supervisor and basketball official. Also as an undergraduate he worked at the Simpsonville Recreation Department where he supervised the Day Camp program for young children. Most notably in his senior year, Hal provided support and fitness activities for mentally challenged young men as a volunteer for the Rock Hill Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department. His many activities as a Winthrop student were diverse and comprehensive and were a lead-in for his remarkable career as manager and director of recreation.

Hal’s first job was with the Golden Strip YMCA in Greenville where he served as a Program Supervisor. After four years of prominent contributions, he was hired at the Lancaster County Parks and Recreation Program as a Program Coordinator for LCPR. He quickly climbed the ladder as he moved to Athletic Director, Assistant Director, and finally Director of Parks and Recreation. As director, Hal is responsible for managing, supervising, and directing all aspects of the Recreation Department’s operations.

Hal has been involved in many professional and service activities in the state and southeast region. He has served as the Conference Fundraiser Chairman for the 2012 South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (SCRPA). He has held leadership positions as president and board member for the South Carolina Athletic Programs and has been awarded citations from SCRPA and the National Recreation and Parks Association. His impact on the quality of life of the citizens of Lancaster and the state of South Carolina has been tremendous, and his twenty-five years of service has been a reflection of his remarkable leadership and impeccable character.

Despite all that he has accomplished, Hal gives all the credit to the influence and mentorship of his Winthrop professors and the men and women who have helped to mold his career. He recognizes that his parents “taught me a lot about life and helped shape me into the person I am.” Now his strength comes from “my wife Marie and my three wonderful boys, Trey, Holden, and Cameron.” For his commitment and outstanding service to Lancaster and the state of South Carolina, we the faculty and staff of Winthrop University, welcome Mr. Hal Hiott as a member of the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Class.