

MELODY “MEL” HORTON, 1988



Dr. Mel Horton graduated from Messiah College in 1985 with a B.A. in physical education and health. In 1988, she completed her M.S. in physical education for special populations at Winthrop University. In 2000, she earned her Ed.D. in Adapted Physical Education from the University of Virginia. She joined the faculty of Winthrop University in 2000 as an assistant professor.

Dr. Horton’s great passion is adapted physical education, and she shared this passion with her students. She provided leadership and advocated for the inclusion of special populations in physical education by providing meaningful movement-based learning experiences for children with special needs. She has published over a dozen articles specific to adapted physical education, along with book chapters and numerous presentations. SCAHPERD recognized her impact on physical education and adapted physical education by naming her the Physical Education and Sport College Teacher of the Year in 2004.

Dr. Horton is also an acknowledged expert in the area of teacher education and assessment. She has made over 60 presentations, published on both assessment and pedagogy, and currently chairs the Unit Assessment Committee at Sage College in New York. She continues to serve as a lead reviewer and auditor for NASPE/NCATE. For the last two years, she has developed and presented an assessment workshop for PETE programs at the AAHPERD National Convention.

While at Winthrop, Dr. Horton was nominated for the Graduate Faculty Award and received a Presidential Citation. At the national level, she served on the Southern District AAHPERD Planning Committee, National PETE Convention Planning Committee, and on the National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities. At the state and regional levels, she served as president of SCAPES and vice-president of the Southern Academy of Women in Physical Activity, Sport, and Health.

Dr. Horton was a joy to have as a colleague for her 10 years as a faculty member. It is with great pleasure that we, the current faculty and staff, welcome Melody “Mel” Horton as a member of the Class of 2012 Distinguished Alumni.