

CESHS

YEAR IN REVIEW // 2025



WINTHROP
UNIVERSITY

*Richard W. Riley College of Education,
Sport, and Human Sciences*

WHAT'S INSIDE

DEAN'S MESSAGE

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

ALEXA KATE BAGWELL & ALIYA MURRAY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (ED.D.) IN LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

STANDRICK J. RHODES '07, '09, '24

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

GEOFF MORROW

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

JERRY FUSSELL '09

HOMECOMING

BLEED GARNET, GIVE GOLD

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

S.E.E. EVENTS

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

DR. JANET WOJCIK

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

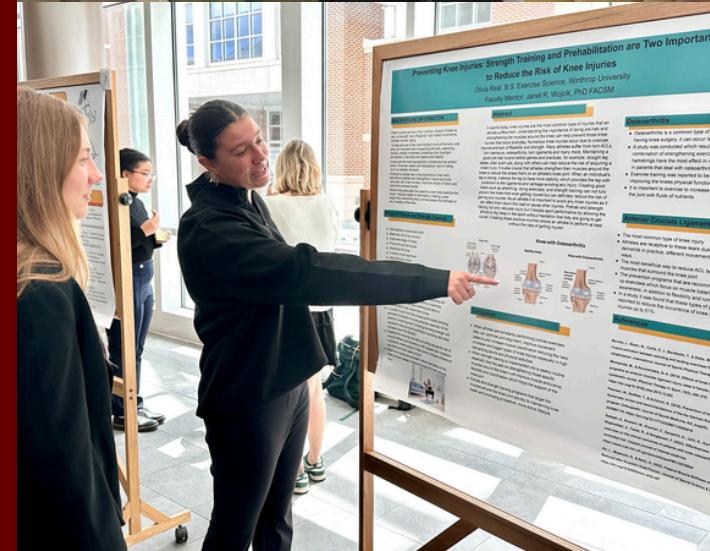
SHANIQUA CORLEY-MOORE '10, '15

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

130 YEARS AT MACFEAT

CELEBRATIONS





DEAN'S MESSAGE

Each year offers new opportunities to celebrate the spirit and strength of the Winthrop community—and 2024–2025 has been a remarkable reflection of what happens when we lead with innovation, investment, inclusion, and intention. These four themes have guided our college's work and partnerships, shaping a year of growth, connection, and purpose.

Our first **Teacher's Lounge Homecoming** event perfectly captured that energy. Hosted by our friends at **Knowledge Perk**, the start of this new tradition brought together educators, alumni, and partners to share stories, ideas, and inspiration. It was a simple but powerful reminder of how community fuels our mission and how investment in relationships leads to lasting impact.

This same spirit of innovation and intention guided the **launch of Winthrop's first doctoral program**, the Ed.D. in leadership and innovation, which welcomed its first class in August 2025. We also introduced a new M.A. in educational studies, designed to offer educators a flexible, online pathway to enhance their skills and reach degree completion—an investment in both people and the profession.

Our programs continue to evolve to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic region. Enrollment is on the rise across the university and within our college, and we are moving forward with redesigns in exercise science to expand pathways in strength and conditioning. Our sport management program is also being redesigned to emphasize the opportunities within our region's vibrant sport tourism industry.

As we look back on 2025 and beyond, we also honor our roots. The **Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School** celebrates 130 years of excellence, with a community reunion planned for spring 2026. This milestone embodies the intentional care, inclusive learning, and innovative spirit that continue to define who we are.

Thank you for being our partners in progress. Together, we're investing in people, embracing innovation, and building a future shaped by inclusion and intention.

BETH COSTNER, PH.D.

Dean, Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences

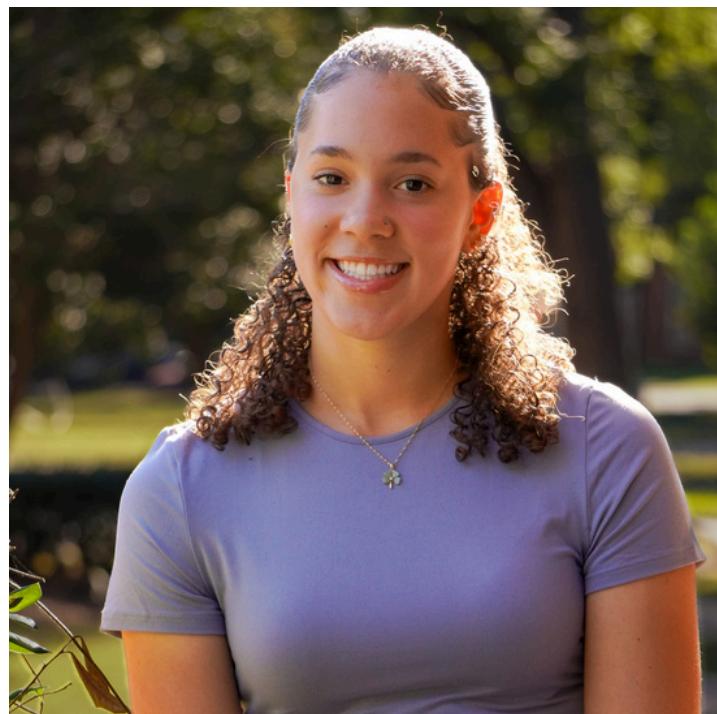
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



ALEXA KATE BAGWELL MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION

Alexa Kate Bagwell chose Winthrop because it was the one place that offered exactly what she dreamed of: a middle level education program and the Teaching Fellows experience. Since arriving on campus, her favorite part has been the strong sense of community and support she feels from the faculty in the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences. She knows that if she ever needs anything, the faculty will be there to listen, advise, and help.

Alexa's commitment to education extends far beyond the classroom. She is a Teaching Fellow, vice president of Alpha Delta Pi, a CESHS student ambassador, the student representative for EPC/PAC, president of the Collegiate Middle Level Association, and a leader with Delight Ministries. She has also attended the South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education Conference every year she's been at Winthrop. Alexa hopes to teach middle school math in South Carolina and dreams of the possibility of one day returning to Winthrop as a middle level faculty member. She is a true role model, setting an example of heart, hard work, and the impact one dedicated future teacher can make.



ALIYA MURRAY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Aliya Murray sprints through life the same way she runs the 100- and 200-meter relays—with determination and purpose. The Maryland native chose Winthrop as the place to spread her wings, seeking independence and somewhere she could balance her passion for track with her calling to teach.

Coming from a family of educators—including a pre-K teacher mom, a retired assistant principal dad, and teacher grandma and sister—Murray initially didn't see herself following in their footsteps. But after volunteering in her mom's classroom during high school and taking her first education course at Winthrop, she was hooked. "I love working with little kids, and now I know for sure this is what I want to do," she says. "The field classes here at Winthrop and the elementary classroom experiences have been great!"

Balancing athletics and academics requires strategy: sticky notes plastered on her wall track every assignment, coming down only when completed. Scholar's Walk remains her favorite campus spot—a perfect place to catch her breath between races.



A BOLD NEW FLIGHT

The fall 2025 semester marked a historic milestone for Winthrop University with the launch of its first doctoral program—the Ed.D. in Leadership and Innovation. This groundbreaking initiative brings together 17 professionals from diverse fields including PK-12 education, higher education, business, government, and nonprofit organizations.

Designed for working adults, the Ed.D. in leadership and innovation invite students to explore leadership, learning, and organizational change within the context of their own professional environments. The program blends synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning, allowing participants to connect, collaborate, and build a strong cohort identity while balancing professional and personal commitments.

Dr. Lisa Harris, program director, emphasized the broader significance of this initiative: “Launching Winthrop’s first doctoral program is more than an academic milestone. It’s a commitment to shaping bold, equity-minded leaders who will strengthen organizations across our region and beyond. This Ed.D. represents the future of graduate education at Winthrop: rigorous, accessible, and deeply connected to real-world improvement.”

“My experience as a student in Winthrop’s new Doctor of Education in Leadership and Innovation program has

been fantastic so far!” shared Monica King, Instructor in Human Development and Family Studies. “The program’s applied focus and the ability to continue working full-time while pursuing my degree have been invaluable. The emphasis on addressing a real ‘problem of practice’ allows me to integrate my studies directly into my work and develop solutions that can make a positive impact.”

Dr. Sherry Hoyle, who taught the cohort’s first course, added, “Teaching in this program offers the opportunity to work with passionate, experienced professionals who bring diverse perspectives and real-world insights to every discussion. It’s a privilege to support and celebrate our scholar-practitioners as they grow into transformative leaders and change agents.”

Many faculty teaching in the program completed their own doctoral studies while working full-time, giving them a unique understanding of how to design learning experiences that support adult learners effectively. The leadership team is currently reviewing applications for the second cohort, which will begin in summer 2026, continuing Winthrop’s investment in preparing leaders who are ready to drive innovation and positive change in their communities.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: JERRY FUSSELL

From his arrival at Winthrop University in fall 2005 to his graduation in spring 2009,

Jerry Fussell's experience as a sport management major marked the beginning of both his professional journey and personal growth. He describes those years as "the launch of a new chapter—and the beginning of who I would become," a sense of purpose that continues to guide his work today as associate director of campus center operations in the DiGiorgio Campus Center. In this role, Fussell helps shape the student experience through the careful coordination of facilities, systems, and events that support daily campus life behind the scenes.



WHERE CAMPUS COMES TOGETHER

Originally from Beaufort, South Carolina, Fussell found a close-knit community that accelerated his development. As part of the sport management program in its early years, he had the opportunity to help define the program's direction for future students. The program's strategic location near professional sports organizations in Charlotte, interscholastic athletics in Rock Hill, and Winthrop Athletics provided hands-on learning that connected coursework directly to real-world experience. His involvement in the Sports Management Association further strengthened these connections by building leadership skills and professional networks aligned with his career goals. Fussell's career path has consistently emphasized behind-the-scenes work. While a student, he gained experience through an internship with Winthrop Athletics and game-day roles with the Carolina Panthers' Guest Relations team. After graduation, he joined Winthrop Athletics as a marketing associate, where he contributed to the growth of the WU Crew student fan club and Eagle Empire rewards program. He also worked with emerging event technologies, including video boards, lighting, and audio systems, gaining valuable skills in teamwork, technology, and live-event management.

In 2010, Fussell moved into campus operations as a Technical Services Coordinator and Night Manager at the DiGiorgio Campus Center, balancing those responsibilities with early-morning work as a kickboxing trainer. Each step, he notes, strengthened the same skills sport management demands: event planning, leadership, customer service, adaptability, and problem-solving—skills he now uses daily to support a campus that is constantly evolving.

Being both alum and staff member gives him "a deep sense of purpose"—a full-circle commitment to the institution that shaped him. He encourages students to stay open to unexpected turns: "Embrace every opportunity, even the ones that don't fit neatly into your original plan. Trust your instincts, stay curious, and enjoy the journey—you never know where a single experience might lead." After all, he says, "this rollercoaster ride called life" will bring highs and lows—but the response is always yours to choose. "As an Eagle, you'll learn how to soar through turbulence and uncertainty," he adds, "but always toward growth."

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: STANDRICK RHODES

Standrick “Stan” J. Rhodes is an energetic and student-centered educator whose career reflects a deep commitment to relationships, equity, and inclusive leadership. A three-time Winthrop University graduate and current Ed.D. student, Rhodes believes that relationships come before rigor—a philosophy that has shaped more than two decades of service in special education and educational leadership. Since earning his Bachelor of Science in Special Education in 2007, he has dedicated himself to ensuring that all students, regardless of ability, have access to high-quality education and meaningful support.

Rhodes’ academic journey includes an M.Ed. in Special Education (2009), which strengthened his expertise in instructional strategies, advocacy, and compliance, and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership (2024), which expanded his perspective on leadership and systems-level change. Together, these degrees reinforced his belief that effective leadership is rooted in equity and in building the capacity of others.

His professional career began as a K4-K5 instructional assistant at Winthrop’s Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School, followed by roles as a special education teacher serving grades K-5. While teaching in Lancaster County Schools, Rhodes received the inaugural Jessie Williams Little Mentor Teacher Motivator Award in 2017. After joining Rock Hill School District 3 (RHSD3), his classroom excellence and leadership earned him the District Teacher of the Year award in 2021. Beyond classroom teaching, Rhodes served as a Master Teacher for the Winthrop University Teacher Residency Program and as a Professional Learning Strand Leader for Social and Emotional Learning. In 2022, he transitioned into the role of Exceptional Student Education Instructional Coach, where he learned to support student success by coaching and developing teachers. Today, Rhodes serves



CHAMPIONING EVERY STUDENT

RHSD3 as an Exceptional Student Education Compliance Facilitator and Behavior Coordinator, working at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure federal compliance while coordinating behavioral support systems across schools.

As a member of the inaugural Ed.D. in Leadership and Innovation cohort, Rhodes’ research focuses on creating inclusive behavioral support systems that do not disproportionately impact students with disabilities or students of color, while also integrating social-emotional learning with academic achievement. Known for his collaborative spirit and boundless energy, he continues to inspire colleagues and students alike, often closing interactions with his trademark encouragement: “Have a STANTastic day!”

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Winthrop University's Homecoming celebration offered two standout experiences designed to reconnect alumni through community, creativity, and campus spirit. The "Teacher's Lounge" event, hosted at Rock Hill-based roaster Knowledge Perk Coffee Company, created a warm and welcoming space for **G.O.L.D. (Graduates of the Last Decade)** alumni to gather, unwind, and reconnect. The event blended nostalgia with meaningful conversation, offering recent graduates the chance to network with peers, share professional experiences, and strengthen their connection to Winthrop. The relaxed atmosphere reflected the spirit of the teacher's lounge itself—a place of encouragement, laughter, and shared purpose—making it an ideal setting for alumni to celebrate their Winthrop roots and build new connections beyond campus.

Adding to the Homecoming energy, **WinthropLIFE** hosted a lively concert featuring the Commercial Music Ensemble. The performance highlighted the talent and creativity of Winthrop students while bringing together alumni, families, and friends for an evening of music and celebration. The concert underscored WinthropLIFE's commitment to inclusive, engaging programming and showcased the university's vibrant arts culture.





Each year, Winthrop University unites its community around a shared purpose: supporting students, uplifting educators, and strengthening the programs that shape the university and its broader community. Through a powerful 24-hour giving initiative, hundreds of passionate alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, and friends come together to make a meaningful impact. This annual day of generosity highlights the collective strength of the Winthrop family and the belief that when many people give together, their support can transform lives. From April 22–23, 2025, the Winthrop community once again rallied for **“Bleed Garnet and Give Gold,”** a celebration of Winthrop pride, philanthropy, and shared commitment.

Donors were invited to support the areas of Winthrop that matter most to them—whether through scholarships that ease students' financial burdens, programs that enrich academic and co-curricular experiences, or resources that empower faculty and staff to continue their work. The excitement of the event extended beyond giving with engaging campus activities, including Eagle Float Frenzy: The Race for Gold, held at the West Center Pool. Representing the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences, **Geoff Morrow** competed against other colleges and divisions in the spirited float race, with **Winthrop Athletics** winning and earning a \$5,000 challenge gift courtesy of the Winthrop University Alumni Association Executive Board. Following Eagle Float Frenzy, campus community members gathered to enjoy Kona Ice, adding a fun and festive close to the celebration. In total, the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences raised more than \$38,000 from more than 115 donors, demonstrating the power of collective generosity and Eagle pride in action.

GOING FOR
THE GOLD

STORIES THAT SHAPED OUR YEAR

Dr. Jared Androzzi, physical education program director and professor was recognized as the 2025 South Carolina Association of Physical Education and Sport's Higher Education Physical Educator of the Year. This recognition was based on outstanding work in student intellectual development, scholarly outcomes, and professional stewardship to SCAHPERD and the community.



Dr. Jared Androzzi recognized as the SCAPES' Higher Education Physical Educator of the Year



Exercise science's Dr. Janet Wojcik is awarded the James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. Janet Wojcik, Exercise Science Program Director and Professor, was selected to receive Winthrop University's top teaching accolade, the James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Wojcik was honored during the December 2025 commencement ceremony.

WinthropLIFE, CESHS faculty and staff, as well as members of the **Council for Exceptional Children** turned out to support a "Night to Shine" in partnership with the Tim Tebow Foundation. "Night to Shine" is an annual, worldwide prom-style celebration for people with special needs ages 14 and older, hosted by churches and communities nationally and internationally.



CESHS faculty, staff, and students celebrate at the Night to Shine event.

Drs. Marshall Jones and Mary O'Grady-Jones spoke at the fourth annual Global Summit on Education (GSE) and World Championship on Climate Action (WCCA) to K12 and university faculty and students. Traveling 18 days to two countries in South Asia, it was a full agenda of multisite meetings at universities and K12 schools in Nepal and India.

Hosted by the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences, the **Circle of Hope** convening brought together educators, mental health professionals, and community partners to explore ways to support youth mental health and strengthen schools across South Carolina. This gathering was the first step in a collaborative process, featuring facilitated conversations from **Drs. Erin Hamel, Sherry Hoyle, and Sherita Davis**, that aims to have a positive and lasting impact on youth well-being throughout the state.



Drs. Marshall Jones and Mary O'Grady-Jones in Nepal

Associate Professor in Education Core and Special Education Dr. Minnie Mize

Dr. Minnie Mize was recognized as the 2025-26 Robert and Norma Thompson Faculty Scholar. Recognized in front of 250 Teacher Cadets, Dr. Mize's READI program (Reading, Engagement, and Academic Development Initiative) builds powerful connections between our campus and the community by training undergraduate and graduate students to become literacy mentors for children in Rock Hill's Title I schools.

Human Development and Family Studies' Melissa Trejo-Villa was recognized as a 2025 National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Honor Student recipient! NCFR Honors Student Recognition is awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding achievements in academics, leadership, and community service in the discipline of Family Science.



Circle of Hope



Melissa Trejo-Villa recognized as one of 23 National Council on Family Relations Honor Student recipients



Dr. Minnie Mize recognized as the 2025-26 Robert and Norma Thompson Faculty Scholar

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: SEE EVENTS



Great teachers need more than content knowledge. At Winthrop, education students participate in Supplemental Education Experiences (SEE events), choosing from a range of events and activities designed to build skills that extend beyond the classroom.

SEE offerings cover three essential categories: Diverse Students, Critical Incidences, and Professionalism. The Diverse Students category focuses on understanding and supporting

learners from varied backgrounds, including multilingual students, those from diverse cultural backgrounds, and those with varying cognitive and academic needs. Critical Incidences addresses the social and emotional challenges teachers face, from recognizing and reporting abuse to supporting students dealing with trauma and mental health concerns. Professionalism allows candidates to explore areas of personal interest, whether that is developing interview skills, attending professional conferences, or building practical knowledge and skills to prepare for life after graduation.

Among the offerings in the Professionalism category is the financial literacy session led by **Dr. Philip Gibson**, professor of finance and director of certified financial planning at Winthrop. When asked to offer the session, Gibson immediately agreed, recognizing that many teacher candidates will soon be managing their own finances for the first time. His session, titled "Dollars and Sense," covers budgeting, student loans, saving and investing, and building long-term wealth. He encourages students to set financial goals and make small, consistent investments that can grow over time.

"Financial literacy is crucial because it impacts every aspect of our lives," Gibson shared. "Financial instability can lead to stress, poor health, and various other challenges. As both an academic and a practitioner, I feel called to educate and help people enhance their wealth, ultimately improving their overall well-being. By equipping students with knowledge early on and encouraging them to start managing their finances through simple actions, I believe we can have a profound impact on their futures."

The financial literacy session is just one example of how SEE offerings prepare students for what lies ahead. These experiences give graduates the tools they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT: DR. JANET WOJCIK

If you walk into the West Center, you'll hear the energy **Dr. Janet Wojcik** brings to every space she enters. Ever ready with a story from her latest Pilates session or an example of how physical activity can improve health, she radiates enthusiasm that inspires students to explore exercise science and embrace healthy lifestyles. Upbeat, vibrant, and passionate about health equity, Janet lights up every classroom and conversation.

Her path to Winthrop began at Virginia Tech, where she earned her Ph.D. in Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise. It was there that she discovered her interest in how movement can improve health across the lifespan, a passion that continues to shape her teaching, mentorship, and research. She also holds an M.S. in physical education from Canisius College and a B.S. in sport and exercise studies from SUNY Buffalo.

Since joining Winthrop in 2006, Janet has transformed the exercise science program with engaging coursework, hands-on learning, and personalized mentorship. She guides students through meaningful internships that help them discover career paths, frequently advises for the McNair Scholars program as well as Honors theses, and encourages student participation at the annual SOURCE conference through her research methods course. Many students gain exposure to research for the first time under her guidance, gaining confidence and seeing themselves as contributors to the field.

Dr. Wojcik's research bridges science and real-world impact. Her most recent research focuses on GLP-1 receptor agonist medications (commonly used for obesity and metabolic disorders) and how combining them with regular physical activity can dramatically improve outcomes. Her findings show that exercise enhances glucose control, cardiovascular health, and body composition while also addressing disparities in access and health equity. By connecting clinical treatments with practical, movement-based strategies, her work offers actionable solutions for improving health across diverse populations.

Beyond campus, Janet is deeply engaged in the community. She has played a key role in developing safe and accessible bicycle routes in York County, collaborating with local organizations like Eat Smart



STRENGTHENING HEALTHY FUTURES

Move More York County and the Bike-Ped Task Force. Her efforts help ensure that physical activity is accessible, safe, and enjoyable for people of all ages, translating her commitment to health equity into tangible community impact.

This year, her dedication to students and teaching excellence was celebrated with Winthrop University's top honor, the Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching. With her energy, mentorship, research, and community engagement, Dr. Wojcik continues to inspire students and colleagues alike, making her a treasured member of the Winthrop community.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT: SHANIQUA CORLEY-MOORE



For **Shaniqua Corley-Moore**, the Winthrop University community has had a sustained presence in her life. A former Winthrop volleyball player, Corley-Moore immersed herself fully in the university's culture as she earned her B.S. in early childhood education (2013). "Winthrop felt like family," she recalls. "It gave me a sense of belonging, purpose and value in my identity." Guided by mentors like Dr. Tenisha Powell, she found her path to impact the regional and national community.

Now the director of the college's Instructional Technology Center (ITC) and a consultant for the Center on Rural Innovation, Corley-Moore brings a rich background in both classroom teaching and innovative tech-integration. Her IT interests began at Doby's Bridge Elementary in Fort Mill as she pioneered the 1:1 technology initiative, led professional development to support district-wide instructional growth, and served as the robotics coach which ignited her passion for STEM.

Corley-Moore shared, "My interest in technology started in the classroom as a general education teacher, I was always drawn to innovative strategies that increased

TECHNOLOGY MEETS LEARNING

student engagement and made learning more interactive. It became a true passion when I became an elementary robotics coach. Seeing students build, troubleshoot, and collaborate in real time showed me how powerful technology can be for confidence, creativity, and problem-solving, and that experience fully invested me in educational technology."

While teaching, she earned her Ed.S. in Educational Technology from Walden University. Since she began her role as ITC Director, Corley-Moore has supported learners of all ages working on projects such as technology literacy for preschoolers in the Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School, preservice teacher technology integration in PK-12 classrooms, and university faculty training and support using technology for instructional differentiation. "I stay current by consistently engaging in professional learning and keeping a pulse on the field. I attend conferences, participate in webinars and virtual trainings, and regularly read edTech articles and research. I also pay attention to what educators are testing in real classrooms, then I explore new tools with a critical lens to evaluate learning impact, accessibility, and practical implementation," says Corley-Moore.

Corley-Moore's dedication to expanding technology opportunities in rural areas stems from her own experiences as a child attending Title I schools in Blackwood, South Carolina. As a first-generation college student, she participated in the TRIO program at Winthrop, which certainly impacted her understanding of access and equity. She aims to cultivate lifelong friendships as she mentors advisees, students, and current and previous workers in the ITC. She speaks with pride about students like Kayla Hugee, a 2023 early childhood education graduate who now teaches in Rock Hill Schools while still staying connected with Shaniqua for dinners and check-ins.

Outside of her professional life, Corley-Moore describes herself simply: "always a mom, a wife, and a lifelong learner"—roles that ground her in the importance of relationships.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: GEOFF MORROW

For more than two decades, two-time alumnus Geoff Morrow has woven his personal journey, professional passion, and deep love for Winthrop University into a career defined by mentorship, community, and adventure. His relationship with the university began as a student, where formative connections with invested faculty shaped both his sense of belonging and his belief in what meaningful education can be. “I felt privileged to be a part of this place,” he reflects. “When an opportunity opened for me to begin working here after grad school, I felt like it was my turn to invest.”

That commitment has guided his 22 years on campus, where he has witnessed constant change—new students, colleagues, and ideas—while also cherishing the timeless elements that define Winthrop’s character. Morrow notes there are “familiar constants that make this place special and memorable—the classrooms, the beautiful building and grounds, and the shared experiences and connections that link generations.”

One of Morrow’s proudest contributions is the launch of the Outdoor Leadership minor in 2012, a program designed not simply to prepare students for outdoor professions, but to use the outdoors as a catalyst for personal and leadership development. His own love for nature began early, growing up in Florida’s orange country and later working with the National Park Service during college—experiences that cemented his belief in the outdoors as a place where people can grow, challenge themselves, and reconnect with what matters.

Students can remove meaningful challenges and, with it, opportunities to develop key skills. “By stepping away from these conveniences, even for a few days,” Morrow suggests, “wilderness experiences remind us that we’re capable—that we can learn, grow, and overcome.” Through moments of challenge—hiking mountains, setting up camp in the rain, navigating rapids—students learn patience, perseverance, resilience, and confidence in ways few classroom experiences can replicate.

Morrow is also known for his ability to build community. Inspired by his childhood hero Mister Rogers and his simple reminder—“I like you just the way you are”—Morrow strives to ensure every student feels valued.



IMPACT BEYOND ADVENTURE

Whether in the classroom or at the Outdoor Education Center, he approaches community-building as “sacred work,” using intentional activities, ice-breakers, and group engagement to help students feel they belong. “You matter, and so does your neighbor,” he says. “That truth has the power to transform a person, a classroom, and a culture.”

Among the most rewarding aspects of his work is discovering Winthrop’s rich outdoor heritage. Research in Winthrop’s Dacus Library & Archives introduced him to Mary Lee Robertson, a 1920s Physical Education faculty member who led hikes and outdoor adventures for the young women of Winthrop College—an extraordinary undertaking for the era. Morrow states, “It’s a legacy like hers that I hope to honor by continuing to break down barriers and create opportunities for students to be impacted by the outdoors. Adventure has been part of Winthrop’s story for more than 100 years. Our goal is to honor that heritage by writing the next chapter well!”

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

The College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences is proud to spotlight Winthrop's student chapter of the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**.

The CEC is the leading international organization dedicated to advancing the success of children and youth with disabilities and giftedness.

Winthrop's chapter, with approximately 35 members, has thrived under the guidance of Dr. Amy Clausen, assistant professor of special education and chapter advisor for the past three years.

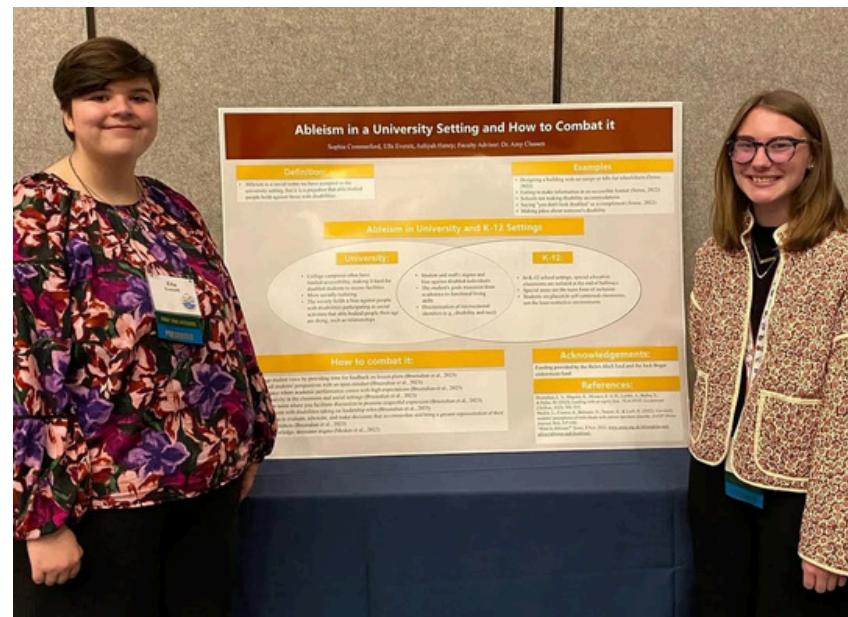
Ella Everett, social media chair, describes CEC as a supportive professional community. This year, members engaged with a panel of alumni who shared insights from their careers in education. Under Dr. Clausen's leadership, the chapter consistently presents research at South Carolina's state CEC conference, often bringing the largest group of college presenters. Topics have included strategies for supporting students with emotional and behavioral differences, addressing ableism, and the WinthropLIFE program. Notably, current president Riley Brodie will present at the CEC National Conference in Spring 2026, and former president Emily Ellis now serves on the national Student and Early Career Committee.

Beyond conferences, the chapter hosts monthly meetings for professional development, organizes fundraisers to support chapter activities, and engages in community service. Past volunteer efforts include reading to students at the Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School and upcoming projects include supporting Night to Shine—a prom for adults with disabilities—and the Miracle League. Each year, the chapter also adopts a classroom of a Winthrop special education alum to provide essential supplies.

Follow Winthrop CEC's work and impact on campus and in the community on Instagram [@winthrop_cec.](https://www.instagram.com/@winthrop_cec/)



EMPOWERING EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS



Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School holds a singular place in American education as the oldest continuously operating laboratory school in the United States. Its story began in 1895, when Dr. D.B. Johnson, president of Winthrop College, established a “Practice School for Children” in Tillman Hall to serve as a hands-on laboratory for teacher education.

In 1899, kindergarten was added to the Practice School, led by Miss Minnie Macfeat, whose name would later become synonymous with the school’s mission and legacy. By 1913, the program had moved into what is now the Withers/W.T.S. Building and was renamed the Winthrop Training School, further solidifying its role as a hub for educational practice and research. The school continued to evolve in 1935 with the establishment of Macfeat Nursery School by the Home Economics Department, providing a laboratory for child development coursework.

A major milestone came in 1986, when departmental restructuring brought the nursery school and kindergarten together in Withers Building as Macfeat Early Childhood School, serving as a training, demonstration, and research center for the School of Education. Today, Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School includes two preschool classrooms for three- and four-year-olds and a kindergarten class for five-year-olds, continuing its long-standing commitment to experiential learning for college students preparing to work with children.

As Macfeat approaches its 130th anniversary in April 2026, the school will welcome alumni back to campus to celebrate its enduring impact. This milestone follows a year of significant recognition, including selection as a Grow Outdoors South Carolina 2025 site. The designation brings professional landscape design, planning support from the National Wildlife Federation, and more than \$38,000 in state funding to transform the playground into a naturalized outdoor learning environment. Adding to this momentum, Macfeat has earned an A+ ABC Quality Rating, affirming its excellence in affordability, quality, and accessibility for families and future educators alike.



CELEBRATING A LASTING LEGACY



CELEBRATIONS

FACULTY PROMOTION & TENURE

Erin Hamel, Professor

Alice McLaine, Professor

Geoff Morrow, Senior Instructor

Kimberly Oxley, Senior Instructor



Drs. Alice McLaine and Erin Hamel were promoted from associate professor to professor

RETIREMENTS

Jamie Larsen, Administrative Assistant, Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnerships

PUBLICATIONS

Audrey Allan and **Lisa Johnson**, *Community-Based Mentoring for Preservice Teachers*

Caleb Chandler, *Discursive Forces of Gender and Sexuality In Fiction and Reality: As Told By Teens*

Jason Chung, *Exploring Esports Spectator Motivations through a Market Segmentation Approach*

Amy Clausen, *A Survey of General Education Faculty on Preparing Teachers to Support Students with Extensive Support Needs: A Brief Report*

Amy Clausen, *Comparing the Effects of Independent and Interdependent Group Contingencies in a Special Education Teacher Preparation Course: A Direct Replication*

Olivia Fichtner, *Predictors of Burnout Among Child Counselors*

Stacy Martin and **Margaret Gillikin**, *Leadership in Action: Empowering School Administrators to Tackle Bullying Through Targeted Training*

Stacy Martin and **Shelley Hamill**, *Helping Faculty Through Expected and Unexpected Grief*

Minnie Mize, *Empowering Youth: Insights from Mentorship Programs for At-Risk Upper Elementary Students of Color*

April Mustian, *Promoting Preservice Special Education Teachers' Acquisition of Morphosyntactic Patterns in African American Vernacular English*

Joy Stapleton, *Save one Person, Save the World: Nicholas Winton and the Czech Kindertransport*

Joy Stapleton, *Water on the Move: An Integrated Unit for Second Graders*

Janet Wojcik, *Benefits of Supplementing a GLP-1 Type Medication with Physical Activity*

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Audrey Allan, *SC RISE Program Director*

Raegen Botzer, *Macfeat Teaching Assistant*

Caleb Chandler, *Teaching Fellows Program Director; Assistant Professor of Education*

Leah Davis, *Assistant Professor of Learning and Leadership*

Nicholas Highe, *Counseling and Development Program Director; Assistant Professor of Counseling and Development*

Jordan Hubert, *Director of AV Services & Digital Media Assistant*

Debbie Lomenzo, *Macfeat Lead Teacher*

Stephanie Moore, *Development Officer; CESHS Development Liaison*

Lindsay Starnes, *WinthropLIFE Assistant Director*

Erin Tester, *WinthropLIFE Independent Living Coordinator*

Lindsay Yearta, *CERRA Executive Director*



Dr. Jason Chung explored the growing Esports market

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Bettie Parsons Barger, Lisa Harris, and Lisa Johnson

Competency-Based Education Network, Phoenix, AZ

Shelley Hamill

South Carolina Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Myrtle Beach, SC

Nick Highe

American Counseling Association Conference, Columbus, OH

Liz Porter, Melanie Sanders, Amy Clausen, April Mustian, and Tenisha Powell

South Carolina Early Childhood Inclusion Conference, Columbia, SC

Elke Schneider and Kelly Costner

LIFT Conference, Rock Hill, SC

Lane Wesson, Joy Stapleton, and Margaret Gillikin

South Carolina Council for the Social Studies Conference, Greenville, SC

Lane Wesson

North Carolina Science Teachers Association Professional Development Institute, Winston-Salem, NC

STUDENT RESEARCH

Karlee Adams, Exercise Science

Caroline Bend, Exercise Science

Kaela Branham, Special Education

Alexandra Cameron, Sport Management

Marco Castro, Exercise Science

Scarlet Cifarelli, Exercise Science

Evelyn Conran, Special Education

Jayla Council, Elementary Education

Camden Davis, Exercise Science

Lily Davis, Exercise Science

Emily Ellis, Special Education

Ella Everett, Special Education

Michaela Hayes, Exercise Science

Ja'Niyah Heyward, Elementary Education

Maddy Hodgson, Sport Management

Kendra Hollington, Special Education

Emory Jones II, Exercise Science

Ali Kowalski, Special Education

Abigail McCrea, Elementary Education

Griffin McNeish, Exercise Science

Camdyn Melin, Exercise Science

Michael Mitchell, Exercise Science

Jacob Myers, Exercise Science

Liana Negron, Exercise Science

Damien Poston, Exercise Science

Megan Powell, Exercise Science

Olivia Real, Exercise Science

Remmy Remia, Special Education

Josalyn Robinson, Exercise Science

Diego Rodriguez, Elementary Education

Lakyn Stevenson, Exercise Science

Meghan Strand, Exercise Science

Teagan Sychterz, Exercise Science

Christian Tennariello, Sport Management

Faith Wood, Exercise Science

Grant Zalud, Exercise Science

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Ronda Collins, Executive Support Specialist

Beth Costner, Dean

Kelly Costner, Associate Professor of Education

Leah Davis, Assistant Professor of Learning and Leadership

Crystal Glover, Early Childhood Education Program Director; Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education

Shawnna Helf, Professor of Literacy

Britta Livengood, Instructor of Middle Level Education

Elizabeth Moore, Academic Advisor

Kimberly Oxley, Educational Studies Program Director; Senior Instructor

Jennifer Bossi Wetzel, Associate Professor of Exercise Science

