

Winthrop University Council of Student Leaders
2012-2013

Introduced by:

Kambrell Garvin

Approved: 1/5/2013

A RESOLUTION

TO RENAME TILLMAN AUDITORIUM TO COMMEMORATE THE SERVICE AND
LEADERSHIP OF DR. BESSIE MOODY-LAWRENCE TO WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
AND THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, Dr. Bessie Moody-Lawrence became one of the first tenured African American professors at Winthrop University and garnered the respect of her colleagues and students during her 31 years of service; and

WHEREAS, she was the second African American woman, and the only Winthrop professor, elected to the General Assembly, serving SC House District 49 for eight terms; and

WHEREAS, she earned the nickname "The Velvet Hammer" for her tenacity and compassion for those less fortunate, especially women and children; and

WHEREAS, she worked across party lines, earning the respect of fellow legislators and in her final address to the South Carolina House of Representatives she encouraged her peers to, "Improve the human condition. Do it for ordinary people. Every nationality. Rich and poor. Young and old. Black and white. Make life better for that little boy or girl, barefooted today, so that they can be contributors to society - not fodder for prisons."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Student Leaders

THAT the Tillman Auditorium be renamed the Bessie Moody-Lawrence Auditorium in honor of her service, commitment and leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the renaming of the auditorium serves to diversify a historically significant building after a trailblazing pioneer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the renaming of the auditorium would reflect the inclusive nature of the Winthrop University of today while continuing to acknowledge our historic past; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage copies of this resolution are to be sent to the Johnsonian, the Roddey McMillian Record and the Herald; the Vice President of Student Life and the President of Winthrop University.

Kambrell H. Garvin, Student Body President
Chair, Council of Student Leaders