

Dear Potential Candidate,

I am very pleased that you are considering this opportunity to make a difference on Winthrop's Campus. This is not a venture to be taken lightly. The two people that occupy the President & Vice-President seats on the Council of Student Leaders are advocates, ambassadors, servants, and cheerleaders for our University. It will be time contribution and legacy you can leave on the future of the university.

There are minimum qualifications for holding the position. By signing below, you confirm that the information provided on the Council of Student Leaders applications is, to the best of your knowledge, correct. In addition, you consent the release of confidential data including grade information. You are also aware that any information in this application may be used for promotional or other uses as the Council of Student Leaders sees fit.

*The resume, leadership portfolio, and platform statement as well as the names on the ticket will be posted on the CSL website.

Candidate Release: I consent to the release of confidential information on this application including grade information. The information I provide will be posted so that students may review my application prior to casting their decision.

Electronic Signature Release: Jah-nai Smith, 03/10/2023

Jah-nai Smith

Bermuda ♦ smithj157@winthrop.edu

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Healthcare Management

May 2024

Winthrop University; Rock Hill, SC, USA

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Council of Student Leaders

August 2022 - Present

Winthrop University; Rock Hill, SC, USA

Position(s): International Student Representative

- Serve as the linkage between international students and higher administration.
- Planned, organized, and facilitate campus-wide programs and initiatives such as campus safety walks.
- Advocate for all international students from 38 different countries by bringing forth issues and concerns that they might have.

Collegiate 4-H

Winthrop University; Rock Hill, SC, USA

January 2023-Present

Position(s): Vice- President

- Plan and direct weekly meetings with members and the executive team.
- Attend Leadership Roundups to practice and develop valuable leadership skills.
- Organize community service opportunities for members by collaborating with York County.

Healthcare Management Association

Winthrop University; Rock Hill, SC, USA

January 2023-Present

Position(s): Active Member

- Attended community service opportunities at nearby facilities
- Expand knowledge of what the world of healthcare is all about through informational presentations
- Develop skills such as networking, interviewing, and critical thinking

International World Leader

Winthrop University; Rock Hill, SC, USA

August 2021-Present

- Mentor incoming international students to assist them in their college transition within a new country.
- Lead informational sessions and skills-based workshops for groups of 15-20 international students.
- Facilitate games and activities and lead campus-wide tours.

International Ambassador

Winthrop University; Rock Hill, SC, USA

August 2020-Present

- Assist with marketing efforts by managing social media accounts and campaigns.
- Coordinate 10+ international events each semester to increase students' cultural awareness.
- Complete 30 hours of community service per semester.

SKILLS:

- Experience presenting for audiences of 3000+
- Strong written and oral communication
- Organization and attention to detail
- Critical thinking and problem-solving

LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO

Jah-nai Smith

1. What goals do you have for the Council of Student Leaders and how will you achieve them?

My first goal for the Council of Student Leaders (CSL) is to be more transparent with the students. Over my time as the international representative of CSL, I heard students often say they were intimidated to approach CSL. I would solve this by being more sociable on campus as a council. Instead of students coming to us we outreach to the student with activities such as tabling in DIGS or on Scholars walk. This can create a connection for the students and allow them to be comfortable over time. The second goal for CSL is mentorship. There are many benefits that the students of Winthrop can use from mentorships such as being encouraged and empowered in personal and professional development, helping to identify, and achieve career goals, helping to identify and correct gaps in generic skills and knowledge, developing and maintaining a broader perspective on career options and opportunities. Mentoring is important because it is a generational continuation that entails that not only will today's students be impacted but future generations of eagles will be as well.

2. As the Chair/Vice Chair of the Council, you are often in the spotlight and criticized. How do you respond to criticism and what do you take away from it?

I process criticism in a four-step procedure which is listening, reflection, ownership, and action. When it pertains to criticism it is important to first actively listen to understand the person's perspective. Then, having the ability to be open-minded would allow me to witness a perception from a different avenue and reflect on the situation that I have been aware of. After, I would take ownership of what has been expressed to me and finally observe ways in which I could not just address the criticism but also a way to learn and grow.

3. What do you believe is your greatest strength and weakness when it comes to leadership?

A leadership characteristic that I consider to be a strength of mine is communication. Communication is a bidirectional aspect that consists of listening and conveying ideas or information. This helps to develop lasting connections with individuals as well as getting to know them for who they are on a personal extent. When it comes to leadership, I would not call them weaknesses but instead areas of improvement and for me, that would have to be my passion. Having an intense desire or enthusiasm for something can be good but I can become overly passionate about something I truly care about. In these areas of improvement, it is important that I am self-aware of when my point of equilibrium is not where it needs to be and allow myself to step back from a situation and debrief.

4. Detail a time that a group was under your leadership and how you lead them and resolved any conflicts that arose. How did you lead, and how did they respond?

Since I was an adolescent, I have had a strong devotion to soccer and I have had to manage and captain many teams. I have a situational leadership style which is an approach in which I as a leader adapt to how I behave according to the needs of each situation. Sports, especially soccer, has constant emotional fluctuation and the team I had to manage were lacking connection and morale due to poor results, so I planned activities such as team building exercises, games nights, and breakfasts apart from soccer to build this aspect of the team. This allowed everyone to engage with one another and build a personal bond which saw tremendous improvement on and off the field!

5. You have heard that Winthrop University students want to decorate their graduation caps, but administration has firmly said no. How would you go about addressing the issue with students and administration?

My first instinct would be to retrieve feedback and acknowledge their sentiment regarding the situation and make sure that their voices are heard. Following, I would listen to the justification from the administration. As the linkage between the students and administration, I would make sure that the student's emotions towards the situation are expressed to the administration. Finally, provide the students with the information on why the administration decided on that outcome and make sure the reasonings are transparent with the students.

TICKET PLATFORM STATEMENT

“LOVE”, Leading Others with the Vision of Excellence”, embodies the heart and the drive we have in cultivating the Winthrop community. As student body president and vice president, we have acknowledged the growth in student engagement on campus and our vision in continuing that must come with a plan. In Leading Others with the Vision of Excellence we plan to lead with authenticity, transparency, and with the true essence of being an eagle.

The perspicacity in taking the initiative to lead others stems from us being first-generation university students. We are consciously aware of the importance of providing students of the past, present and future to grasp the opportunities for professional and personal growth that we were given when we soared onto Winthrop grounds. As the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said, “The great part about excellence is that it is achieved via qualitative, not quantitative shifts”. This holds near to our hearts because our vision of excellence focuses on developing quality through service, community, and diversity.

To encapsulate the attribute of service, we plan to be a driving force in promoting the unity and outreach of the Winthrop community. Connecting students to opportunities within the community and collaborating with student organizations such as SOAR, Close Scholars, Collegiate 4-H, etc, to show our gratitude, appreciation, and inclusion of other organizations. Winthrop is surrounded by the principles of diversity, in leading with the mindset of embracing differences, the effort of making everyone feel valued is within our master plan of “LOVE”, Leading Others with the Vision of Excellence”.