

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: Shivani Dahya 03/08/2023

# Shivani Dahya

dahyas2@mailbox.winthrop.edu

## **EDUCATION**

Winthrop University, Bachelor of Arts and Science, May 2024

Sociology - Social Inequalities

Legal Studies and Political Science Double Minor

GPA 3.63

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Office of Undergraduate Research** | Rock Hill SC, Charlotte, NC

August 2022-Present

*Undergraduate Researcher*

Researching and collecting qualitative data for Winthrop University's Oral History Project: Project 2020.

Our research project is: "The Asian American and Pacific Islander Experience of COVID-19: Discrimination, Identity, Media Perception, and Racism"

- Presented at the *Movements Interdisciplinary Research Research Conference*

**City of Rock Hill - Community Relations Council** | Rock Hill, SC

August 2022-December 2022

*Intern*

- Collect and organize information from a variety of sources, such as databases, citizen's hearings, and city-wide events
- Work with the council members and other stakeholders to identify necessary programs and services
  - Plan and manage outreach activities for increased awareness of the program

**Dacus Library** | Rock Hill, SC August 2020 – Present

*Circulation Assistant*

- Circulate texts, audio, and digital systems
- Distributes content throughout Winthrop University faculty, staff, alumni, and community
- Provide customer service to a wide variety of patrons such as students, faculty, staff, alumni and the Rock Hill community

## **SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

**Culture Club** | Winthrop University, Fall 2021 – Present

*President*

- Develop, strategize, and create events regarding cultural awareness with Culture Club staff
- Identify appropriate sponsors and supporters to facilitate club activities and events
- Maintain relationships with Winthrop University's International Center

**Diversity Peer Educators** | Winthrop University, Fall 2021- Present

*Program Coordinator*

- Specialize in programming and event curation regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion ●  
Perform workshops for faculty, staff, and students
- Maintain relationships with the Office of Engagement and Dean of Engagement

**Council of Student Leaders** | Winthrop University, Fall 2022

*Campus Safety Committee Chair*

- Facilitate connections and be the liaison between campus police, facilities, and the student body ●  
Promotion of campus-wide events regarding safety and building facilities
- Communicate with students about issues regarding the university and take action in creating solutions for those issues

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Pilgrim's Inn | Volunteer

The City of Rock Hill | Intern

Winthrop Affiliated Volunteer Organizations | Volunteer

**CERTIFICATION/HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS**

Honorary Gamma Beta Phi Member - Service and Scholarship Honors Society

Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Member - Scholastic Honors Society

Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022 Dean's List

Adult, Child, and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED Certification

CITI Undergraduate Research Certification

Congressional Internship 101 Achievement Certification

# LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO

Shivani Dahya

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

The goals we have for the Council of Student Leaders are to increase transparency of what CSL does as a whole to our Winthrop community. Second, we intend to hold CSL members accountable of the obligations they are responsible for once they're sworn in. We want to ensure that our Council as a whole is as efficient as possible. For each committee, we plan to increase the engagement with the Rock Hill community. For Campus Safety, our Chair as well as the faculty advisors have a number of contacts and resources that are willing to work directly with council to increase safety on the outskirts of campus that is touching the city. For Civic Engagement, we want to create a stronger relationship with Student Engagement and Mrs. Kinyata to promote more student involvement, leadership, and engagement workshops. For Public Relations, we intend to look back to the Constitution and encourage committee chairs to enforce individual roles according to skill sets as per the Constitution of the Council of Student Leaders. Lastly for Internal, we want to improve Internal's involvement through having them work alongside Civic Engagement especially in the Spring semester. In conclusion, as a whole we want to empower, encourage, and embolden the Council of Student Leaders through being transparent and providing any additional support to the chairs and the members.

**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?**

As Chair, I would be put in a larger spotlight than my vice chair. Some criticism given would be not fulfilling all the needs for the student body or being able to reach all individuals and their concerns. I understand as Chair, there is an immense amount of pressure in being able to address concerns with students as well as being the face for the students to the administration. How I respond to criticism is by being open-minded, understanding the criticism, and personally reflecting how I can alter any actions that are causing the criticism to occur. Oftentimes, leaders let their pride get in the way of really sitting down and understanding what's being asked of them. I believe as a leader such as myself, I take criticism to better myself and my performance. I am a firm believer that we are all human and not machines, and it's time for leaders to embrace that and use criticism to enhance our performance not just for ourselves, but for those we are serving.

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

My greatest strength as a leader is my persistence and passion in carrying out the mission and serving those whose voices are underrepresented or silenced.. As leaders;

especially in public service, our job is to serve the people who look up to us for leadership and for answers. Many leaders lose the passion of the job and why they decided to be in that position of leadership. They end up not listening to the voices they're representing and follow other avenues that can inherently harm the people they're supposed to serve. I pride myself in understanding my purpose and sticking to it. As Culture Club's President, I've learned to adapt to the new changes here at Winthrop in the last two years and also persist in continuing to carry out Culture Club's goals, meaning, and purpose. A weakness I have as a leader is not allowing myself to breathe. I feel leaders 'bite off more than we can chew.' We want to help everyone and do everything at the same time, but as stated before, we're humans and need to listen to our mind and focus more on mental wellness. I am taking measures to set boundaries as a leader, but it's definitely something I am continuing to work on.

**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?**

Last fall, I was the committee chair for CSL's Campus Safety Committee. Our committee's goal was to provide obtainable solutions for student's concern about their safety on campus. I led my committee with structure and understanding. My goal as a committee chair was to provide my committee members with complete transparency of the issues at hand, student concerns, and what our goals as a committee was. At the end of every meeting, I had members confirm their understanding of all that was going on and made sure they knew what we needed to accomplish before the next meeting date. Conflicts that did arise was attendance within our core work for Campus Safety. As a college student, I understand that we are all busy and have numerous obligations. However, confirming your attendance and not showing up without notice is unacceptable. With this, I sat down with my committee and was transparent with my concerns. Additionally, I also empathized with them and their feelings of being overwhelmed and overbooked. From there I provided alternative dates to them to ensure maximum attendance for our events. Instead of continuing without them, I worked together with my committee members as a whole to see what works best with everyone. I led with transparency and empathy and they responded with greater respect for me, our committee, but also the work that needed to be done. This also created a greater understanding of why everyone is important and that their attendance was vital to fulfilling our purpose as CSL's Campus Safety committee.

**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?**

First, I would validate their emotions and acknowledge their frustrations from their point of view. Then, I would explain to them the reasonings the administration might have said no. Oftentimes, students are told no or told nothing with no explanation to why things happen or don't happen. I believe that transparency on both ends are vital to create stronger connections and understanding between students and administration.

Third, I would help offer alternative ways to personalize their graduation experience such as hair, jewelry, stoles, etc. as well ensuring that it aligns with Winthrop's core values and beliefs.

# TICKET PLATFORM STATEMENT

The perspective of the student body should not be taken lightly. The student perspective is crucial in decision-making regarding education, university concerns, and campus life. Students feel a lack of harmony, information, and representation. We must validate their concerns by establishing unity, integrity, and visibility.

Unity means embracing diversity and collaborating to create solutions that work for everyone. Inclusive spaces on campus need improvement, and we aim to encourage the blending of cultures. Free expression is important, and we will provide safe spaces for open discussion. Our goal is to bridge divides and create a more united, cohesive campus.

Winthrop is working on projects for the student body, but communication about these goals and accomplishments is not as openly discussed. As leaders, we wish to promote open conversations between faculty and students. This way, those who wish to have an inside look at those who run campus operations are able to do so. Further, we will work with the financial committee to make financial statements more user-friendly, and on campus resources will be promoted better. We prioritize clear communication from the administration to empower informed decision-making along students.

Visibility helps with student engagement by providing awareness of opportunities and resources available to them. Students have addressed concerns with isolation exclusion in supposed to be “inclusive” spaces. To aid this issue, we will start by asking what makes students feel visible? We then can work directly with smaller student organizations and underrepresented populations. Opening our ears up for all voices allows us to create new opportunities for students.

These values form the foundation for our leadership platform. We are committed to a system that is student-centered and prioritizes their needs. Pushing for unity, integrity, and visibility leads to students having faith in the university and those who represent them.