July 1, 2014

Dear Winthrop Family and Friends:

All who care about Winthrop share concern over recent events reported in the local, statewide, and national news media involving Winthrop’s leadership. Those events, as you may know, culminated in the termination of Dr. Jamie Comstock Williamson’s presidency. I am writing to you today to assure you that the mission-critical work of our university continues. History tells us that the Winthrop community is resilient in the face of challenges. At times in our past, difficult decisions had to be made; and our leaders have used the opportunities that came from necessary change to enhance this institution and especially the educational experience offered to students. From such challenges, Winthrop has emerged stronger and more responsive to the needs of our state, nation, and world. We will do so again.

Winthrop has always been about teamwork. The successes of the past came from the hard work and perseverance of many individuals across our campus, within our alumni base, and from friends near and far. Indeed, the promise of the future, likewise, will depend on an enthusiastic team effort, one that everyone with whom I’ve talked in recent days is poised to deliver. As we consider our search for a new president, I am honored to serve Winthrop in the role of Acting President because I know that I am doing so in partnership with all of you.

This period of transition provides each of us with heightened opportunities to demonstrate our belief in Winthrop's lasting value. There are Winthrop testimonies to be made to neighbors and prospective Winthrop students, financial contributions to scholarship funds for students who could not otherwise access a Winthrop education, and countless other ways to assist Winthrop as it moves forward in the good work for which our university is known.

Thank you for supporting Winthrop University. Stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Debra C. Boyd, Ph.D.
Acting President