

BIOS – STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE SPEAKERS – JUNE 24

Striving For Excellence, Not Perfection

Deana Keever '97, '99, Human Resources Director, city of Rock Hill

9-10 a.m.

Deana Keever supports over 1,000 employees as the Human Resources Director for the City of Rock Hill. Prior to joining the city in 2018, Deana worked as an HR professional in the manufacturing, distribution, and natural gas industries. Her career has also taken several unexpected twists in her 26-year career to include leading operations for two different natural gas providers as well as being responsible for Department of Transportation pipeline safety across three states. She is a two-time Winthrop graduate (1997, 1999). Today Deana will speak to us about the importance of striving for excellence, rather than perfection.

Protecting Your Spark

Kate Brunnelson, Outreach Coordinator, NAMI Piedmont Tri-county

10:05-11 a.m.

Kate Brunnelson is the York County Outreach Coordinator with NAMI Piedmont Tri-County and brings nearly a decade of experience as a passionate mental health advocate and educator. Dual-certified as an instructor in Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid, Kate is dedicated to empowering communities with knowledge, resources, and support. A proud Wisconsin native and mom of three, she combines her professional and personal experience to help break the stigma around mental health and create a culture of understanding and resilience.

Keys to Better Communication

Candice Coulter, LCMHC Facilitator, MYgroup

11:05 a.m.-12 p.m.

Candice Coulter is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor with over 12 years of experience serving the child, adolescent, and adult population. Candice has worked in the inpatient hospital setting for over ten years, provided outpatient services, in-home services, and more recently began serving clients through her private practice. Candice also provides EAP therapy services and trainings that provide companies and their employees with the tools and skills needed to be healthy and productive in their work and daily lives. She has an integrative approach to therapy based on a person-centered,

cultural and trauma-informed perspective. It is Candice's belief that each client's life experience shapes their perspective on the challenges they face and their approach to facing those challenges in a healthy manner. Candice prioritizes the development of a mutually respectful and supportive therapeutic relationship and is open to discussing challenges her clients face while utilizing her expertise to help them gain the clarity, insight and skills they need to achieve healthy mental and emotional well-being.

BREAK

Humor in the Workplace

Dr. Debbie Garrick '87, '89, Winthrop Legend

1-1:30 p.m.

Debbie Garrick earned her B.A. in communication (minor in technical writing) and her M.Ed. in counseling and development at Winthrop. In 2009 she earned an Ed.D. in higher education administration from Nova Southeastern University. She worked as associate vice president of alumni relations and executive director of the Winthrop Alumni Association. As a Winthrop employee for nearly two decades, Garrick not only served as associate vice president but also taught ACAD, LEAD 175 and various co-op and career classes in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. She also worked as a career counselor in Winthrop's Division of Student Life and retired in 2025 as a Senior Gift Officer.

Social Media Tips and Tricks

Amanda Caldwell, Assistant Professor and Outreach Engagement Librarian, Dacus Library

Taylor Evans '21, Residential Success Coordinator, Residence Life

Amanda Caldwell has worked for Dacus Library for almost two years. She started off in the Acquisitions department and while she wasn't in charge of the library's social media then, she was in plenty of videos and made the posts that advertised events. In November of last year, Amanda became the Outreach and Engagement Librarian, which means she does anything and everything she can to get students excited about the library and coming in the door. This includes now being in charge of the library's Instagram and making silly videos with as many coworkers as are willing.

Taylor Evans is a Winthrop alumna who is currently serving as the Residential Success Coordinator for the Courtyard and previously held the role of Study Abroad Advisor in the International Center. She has maintained social media for several different offices and

organizations on campus since 2017 and loves sharing her elder Gen Z expertise with others.

Attitude of Gratitude

Dr. Amanda James, Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions

Dr. Amanda James is the Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions and has dedicated her career to student success, strategic enrollment, and building strong campus partnerships. With almost a decade of experience in higher education, she brings a passion for leadership, collaboration, and creating a culture where people feel seen, valued, and inspired.

Dr. James will be leading a session titled “Attitude of Gratitude” — a lighthearted and reflective conversation focused on the power of perspective, the importance of appreciation, and how gratitude can transform our daily work and relationships. Blending humor, honesty, and real talk, this session invites staff to reconnect with their “why,” acknowledge the challenges we all face, and explore simple ways to lead with gratitude in even the busiest seasons.

Outside of work, Dr. James is a proud mom of two wonderful kids, an avid reader with a love for travel and pizza, and someone who always finds a little burst of joy in a McDonald’s Diet Coke.