

Government/Community Relations Quarterly Report

October 24-25, 2019

A. City/County/Business Partnerships

Due to delays in the completion of the Rock Hill Sports and Events Center, Winthrop has agreed to accommodate four of the six events previously booked in the Center. Those events are the South Carolina Bar Annual meeting, USA Volleyball tournament, Charlotte Rollin' Accessibility Basketball Tournament, and the Thomas Gymnastics Meet. Two requests were denied due to lack of space availability on campus. Regular rental rates are in effect for these events.

The Exercise Science offices, lab, and classroom in the Lowenstein Building in Knowledge Park are fully operational. The space includes one classroom that seats 32 students and one lab with multiple pieces of state of the art equipment (total equipment value over \$200K). Five academic classes and eight lab sections are taught there with over 100 students using the space each week between lecture and lab. Four faculty have primary teaching responsibilities in the space. The site is also used to facilitate faculty research, student research, and special trainings, such as CSCS Strength and Conditioning seminars.

Rock Hill City buses ([MyRide](#)) continue to serve the campus. Two different routes have stops on campus with service to the transportation hub (near the cemetery in Knowledge Park) where riders can access all four routes.

Route 1 services the campus via the downtown loop and the transportation hub. It begins at 7:20 am and ends at 6:50 pm. On Fridays and Saturdays it runs until 8:50 pm. **Route 3** services the campus via Cherry Road to Riverwalk and the transportation hub. It begins at 7:04 am and ends at 6:34 pm. On Sundays it runs from 9 am to 5 pm. **Route 2** to Piedmont Hospital and **Route 4** to the Rock Hill Mall/Target area run from 7 am to 7 pm. On Sundays they run from 9 am to 5 pm. Students can access these routes by walking or riding to the hub at Knowledge Park.

There are no fees for riding the buses but Winthrop supports the bus system with \$200,000 per year. In return, we are included in advertising at bus stops and both inside and outside of the buses.

B. Legislative Activities

Miracle Park—Winthrop has received approval from the Joint Bond Review Committee and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority to enter into a long-term lease with the York County Disabilities Foundation and the City of Rock Hill. Winthrop has agreed to lease for \$1 per year, a parcel of land located at the intersections of Cherry Road, Richmond Drive, and Eden Terrace for the purpose of a playground designed specifically for disabled children. The Disabilities Foundation will fund the building of the park and purchase of equipment and the City of Rock Hill will be responsible for upkeep, maintenance, and programming.

State Budget request—Winthrop’s budget has been presented to the Governor’s office. Next steps to occur will be presentations to both the House Ways and Means Higher Education budget subcommittee and the Senate Finance Higher Education budget subcommittee in early 2020.

AJ Newton, Budget Analyst for the South Carolina House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee, has contacted the University to discuss a potential visit to our campus.

C. Legislator Interactions

A panel discussion, “Women in Politics: Obstacles and Opportunities” was held on Oct. 17 and was open to the public. The invited panelists were State Representative Wendy C. Brawley (D) representing Richland and Sumter counties, State Representative Chandra Dillard (D) representing Greenville County, State Representative Raye Felder (R), representing York County and State Senator Katrina Shealy (R) representing Lexington County.

D. Legislative Actions of Particular Interest to Winthrop University

The House will do pre-filing of bills for the 2020 session on November 20th and December 11th. Pre-filing dates for the Senate are not yet announced but are expected to be in December. No additional information is available at this time.

Submitted by: Kimberly Faust, Chief of Staff