



## **AUBREY DOUGLAS ECHOLS, JR.**

*Doug Echols, your long and distinguished career as mayor of Rock Hill, visionary and friend of higher education serves as a shining example of the immense impact one person can make in improving the quality of life within a community.*

*You have demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to higher education, beginning with your seven years of service as Winthrop's associate director of athletics and coliseum manager. You established then a solid direction for student-athlete participation in campus life and community activities, which you carried forward as first commissioner of the South Atlantic Conference and emphasized until your retirement in 2008 after 19 years. You have supported quality education at all levels throughout the Palmetto State.*

*You have shown leadership in ensuring the diversity of Rock Hill is reflected in city leadership and in public service positions. You have adhered to the tenets of professional city management and fiscal responsibilities and dedicated yourself to working pro-actively on behalf of a community vision built on partnership. Several city projects are completed or are in the works which will bear fruition for decades to come, including downtown economic development efforts with the Textile Corridor, the College Town Action Plan and the Knowledge Park and sporting facilities such as Manchester Meadows, the Rock Hill Outdoor Center at Riverwalk, the Giordana Velodrome.*

*These projects succeed because of your personal commitment to bringing in community leadership for regular consultation on how to improve the region. As a result, Rock Hill appears on several lists, such as Best Places to Raise a Child and Top 10 Soccer Cities.*

*We at Winthrop applaud you for your state and national municipal responsibilities, including as president of the Association of South Carolina Mayors, past president of the Municipal Association of South Carolina and as member of the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities. You have been willing to take on national responsibilities to ensure voices of comparable size communities to Rock Hill are given attention at the federal level.*

*Meanwhile, on the local level, you maintain a strong presence in local affairs, including welcoming Winthrop's new students each fall in the annual Convocation ceremony.*

*Doug Echols, your effectiveness as mayor of Rock Hill since 1998 has encouraged growth in this city through a strategic plan that promotes excellence and efficiency. Your career, your commitment and your character exemplify what can be accomplished by those who dedicate themselves to raising the standards by which we measure ourselves.*

*With the authority vested in me by the Winthrop University Board of Trustees, and the State of South Carolina, I hereby confer upon you, this fifteenth day of December, the degree of*

### ***Doctor of Humane Letters***

*honoris causa, with all rights, honors and privileges thereunto appertaining.*

  
Dalton B. Floyd, Jr. Chair  
Board of Trustees

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Anthony J. DiGiorgio  
President

December 15, 2012



## **HUGH KENNETH LEATHERMAN, SR.**

*Hugh Leatherman, as State Senator since 1981 and chairman of the enormously powerful Senate Finance Committee, you have provided a stalwart and common sense voice representing South Carolina citizens of all ages, in both prosperous and challenging times.*

*Throughout your adult life, you have given to South Carolina unselfishly and without hesitation through your dedication to public service at both local and state levels. Your home district in the Pee Dee, as well as the rest of the Palmetto State, is better off for your willingness to serve.*

*As a Florence businessman, you have maintained a focus on key issues that will help uplift residents and benefit the private sector. Further, you were a key player in bringing Boeing Corporation to the Lowcountry, an accomplishment that will bring at least 3,800 jobs and millions in economic development to South Carolina over the next few years.*

*During the recent Great Recession, you worked tirelessly to ensure that South Carolina would not be excluded from the benefits of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA), a move that saved thousands of S.C. college students from emergency tuition increases and helped stabilize employment in both the emergency service and education sectors.*

*Likewise, we thank you for your leadership in ensuring that S.C. retains its stellar bond rating, thus saving thousands of dollars in interest costs for essential public improvements. We praise you for your willingness to work with senators across the philosophical spectrum, including illuminating all regarding potential unintended consequences of proposed public policy paths. And we applaud your efforts to reward the accomplishments and retain the experience of state personnel as evidenced by your willingness to advocate for post-recession compensation improvement for state employees.*

*Likewise, as a straightforward policymaker, you have distinguished yourself on the five-member State Budget and Control Board with your wisdom and experience during countless pivotal proceedings over your many years of service, and we know you can be depended upon to do the same in the future.*

*Hugh Leatherman, we at Winthrop University value your unwavering commitment to this state's residents, your support for education for all citizens, and your pragmatic approach to preserving the state's fiscal reputation and pursuit of prosperity for all. That is why today, we honor you for your life of conscientious stewardship of South Carolina and wish you well in continuing to mentor others to follow your example of public service.*

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## SYLVIA FULBRIGHT ECHOLS

*Sylvia Echols, many years ago you answered a calling as an advocate for children. Going back to your college days at Mars Hill College, you quickly grasped that children's formative years are the most important in shaping their capacity to learn throughout their lifetimes, as well as in shaping their values and beliefs.*

*Your child development degree at Winthrop led you on a path to help parents, grandparents, prospective teachers, business leaders and public policy makers across South Carolina and beyond to understand the effects of early childhood education on children's long-term futures, and to consider the effects of politics and public policy decisions on children's every-day lives. You have used that knowledge to work as an early childhood education consultant, instructional coach, co-coordinator for the Central Child Development Center, preschool teacher and pediatric child development specialist. You also participated on the S.C. Governor's Task Force for Writing Child Care Legislation.*

*Your life-long dedication has culminated in your work as an ambassador for the "Is It Good for the Children?" initiative launched by Rock Hill's Commission for Children and Youth. The campaign encourages city residents to make this simple and elegant question a part of their daily language in homes, neighborhood activities, at work, in places of worship, in schools, and every corner where decisions are made. The community also is reminded to incorporate strong values as a key to lifelong success for future generations.*

*Raised as part of a spiritual family in Lake Junaluska in the mountains of North Carolina, you learned to respect and infuse an appreciation for family, education and community service into your daily living. Your public service in York County shows that you eagerly bring that message to others in innovative ways and imprint on all community decision makers the importance of children when making decisions about community life. Children everywhere have a friend in Sylvia Echols and those fortunate enough to be Sylvia's friend know they have a friend for life.*

*At the same time, you also have dedicated the last 14 years to being part of Rock Hill's leadership couple. As wife of our Mayor, you have made numerous personal sacrifices in supporting your husband in his commitment to public service in general and the Rock Hill community in particular.*

*Sylvia Echols, we at Winthrop University salute you today for your powerful moral compass, your humanitarian touch and for your self-sacrifice to enable future generations of children to be valued for the inherent potential they hold both individually and collectively.*

*Therefore, with the authority vested in me by the Winthrop University Board of Trustees, and the State of South Carolina, I hereby confer upon you, this fifteenth day of December, the degree of*

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