



## **2024 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award Dr. J. Edward Lee, Class of 1983**

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Each year, Winthrop University recognizes an alumnus for selfless dedication of time, energy and talent in service to this institution and others. The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award captures this high honor.

The 2024 recipient is Dr. J. Edward Lee, Class of 1983, a 40-year veteran of the university classroom and South Carolina historian.

Dr. Lee earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science from Presbyterian College, a Master of Arts in history from Winthrop College, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Lee is a third generation Winthrop graduate. His grandmother, Victoria Sanders, was a member of the Class of 1897, and his mother, Ola Bankhead, was a member of the Class of 1936.

He began his teaching career at the University of South Carolina and has also taught at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and Belmont Abbey College. Dr. Lee joined the Winthrop faculty in 1994 and directs the graduate studies in history program. His teaching has won several awards, including a Presidential Citation at Winthrop in 1996 for his pioneer work in remote learning and he was honored in 2017 with the university's Faculty Student Life Award. In appreciation for his many contributions to Winthrop, a group of Dr. Lee's students came together in 2017 to create the J. Edward Lee Scholarship. Once endowed, the fund will provide scholarship money for a graduate student studying history.

In 1979, at the age of 25, Dr. Lee became the youngest person ever elected to the Chester City Council. After graduate school, he was elected mayor of the City of York, a position that he held for 18 years. During that time, he served as chair of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments and as chair of the South Carolina Association of Regional Governments.

He is currently vice chair of the South Carolina Archives Commission and serves as chair of the National Register of Historic Places review board. He also is a current member of the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars. He previously served as president of the South Carolina Historical Association.

This year, Governor Henry McMaster presented Dr. Lee with the Order of the Palmetto. The award was established by Governor John C. West in 1971 and is South Carolina's highest civilian honor. It recognizes lifetime achievements and contributions that have significantly benefited the state. In 2017 he received the State Historic Preservation Award for his successful efforts to save the York County Courthouse, and, in 2015, he received the Palmetto Trust's Historic Preservation's Elected Official Award for leading the efforts to save the historic York County Courthouse.



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Dr. Lee has been active with Winthrop beyond the classroom. He was the Convocation speaker for the university's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. He served five years as parliamentarian of Faculty Conference. He was Faculty Advisor to the Council of Student Leaders for two terms, chaired the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and regularly presents programs focusing on Winthrop history for new staff, student organizations, admissions counselors and community organizations.

Dr. Lee is the author of 22 books, including one on the award-winning history of his hometown, "Yorkville to York." Others include "South Carolina in the Civil War" and "Southern Cold Warrior," a biography of U.S. Congressman James P. Richards. He has also written four well-regarded books on America's Vietnam experience. His most recent book, written with former Congressman John Napier, is entitled "Crossing The Aisle: Lessons For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

Dr. Lee has lectured on history in India, the United Kingdom and Vietnam, and has frequently served as a commentator for national media, including NBC, CNN and National Public Radio. He presents public programs on topics ranging from South Carolina history to the U.S. presidency.

He is married to Ann-Franklin Hardy of Dillon. They are parents to Elizabeth Lee Walen of Waxhaw, North Carolina.