



## **2024 Outstanding Young Alumni Award Mr. Jeff Robinson, Classes of 2014 & 2020**

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The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizes a Winthrop alumna/us age 35 or younger whose service to Winthrop, service to the community and professional achievements have reflected positively on all alumni and the university.

Mr. Jeff Robinson, Classes of 2014 and 2020, is being honored with the 2024 Outstanding Young Alumni Award for his accomplishments as an arts educator, administrator, leader and advocate.

Mr. Robinson earned a Bachelor of Music Education in 2014 and a Master of Arts in Arts Administration in 2020 from Winthrop University. A lifelong musician and arts advocate, Mr. Robinson serves as the executive director of the South Carolina Arts Alliance, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy, leadership development and public awareness for the arts. In his role, he leads efforts to strengthen public policy, public support, and public funding for the creative sector at both the state and national levels. The organization's flagship event, SC Arts Day, brings hundreds of arts leaders, legislators, students, educators and advocates together at the State House each year to elevate the significant impact the arts have in the Palmetto State.

With over a decade of experience as an arts educator and administrator, he began his career in his hometown of York as director of bands at York Middle School and assistant director at York Comprehensive High School, where students under his direction were consistently recognized at the state and regional levels. As the YMS director of bands, he also organized the school's first middle school Jazz Ensemble, beginning as an extra-curricular program that met after school, and later developing into a semester-long course for students during the school day.

Prior to joining the South Carolina Arts Alliance, Mr. Robinson worked in the Office of Outreach at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities developing professional learning, arts programming, and virtual resources for students and teachers throughout South Carolina. He also worked closely with local organizations to help connect young artists and their community through the Governor's School's service-learning program, Connecting Arts Through Service.

His tenure at the Governor's School also included work as a grant associate with the Spark program, a drama-based literacy initiative in partnership with Arts Grow SC, the South Carolina Arts Commission and the South Carolina Department of Education.

During his graduate studies, he was selected as the inaugural graduate fellow for the South Carolina Arts Alliance in 2020, an opportunity only offered to students enrolled in an arts administration/arts management program in the state, which showed him the "inner workings of art policy" at the state and federal levels, taught him about grassroots advocacy and helped grow his professional network beyond the arts.



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In 2022 he participated in South Carolina Afterschool Leaders Empowered (SCALE), a 10-month fellowship at the Furman University Riley Institute. He is the incoming board chair for the Palmetto State Arts Education, is a South Carolina Teaching Fellow and serves as a deputy province governor for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

Mr. Robinson resides in Inman with his wife, Lori Lynne, and their calico cat, Lucky.