

Winston-Salem State University

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Winston-Salem State University (**WSSU**), a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina, is a historically black public research university located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States. It is a member-school of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. WSSU is an accredited university offering baccalaureate and graduate programs to a diverse student population.

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History

Dr. Simon Green Atkins distinguished himself in his home state of North Carolina as an advocate of teacher-training programs for African Americans. He founded a small school, Winston-Salem Teachers College, that he developed into Winston-Salem State University, a four-year institution, and oversaw its transition from private to state control. His abiding interest in teacher-training also led him to become a founder of the North Carolina Negro Teachers Association.

The oldest child of a brick layer and former slaves Allen and Eliza Atkins, Simon Green Atkins was born on June 11, 1863, in the village of Haywood, in Chatham County, North Carolina, between Sanford and Raleigh. His town flourished during the period just after the Revolutionary War, but by the late 19th century the railroad and the neighboring town of Moncure had overshadowed it. At one time the area was considered as a location for the state capital as well as the state university. As a child, Atkins worked on a farm with his grandparents.

Winston-Salem State University



Motto	<i>Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.</i>
Type	Public, HBCU
Established	1892
Endowment	\$34 million ^[1]
Chancellor	Elwood Robinson
Academic staff	400
Administrative staff	800
Students	6,442
Undergraduates	5,975
Postgraduates	467
Location	Winston-Salem, NC, U.S.
Campus	Urban
Colors	Red and White
Athletics	NCAA Division II
Nickname	WSSU
Mascot	Ram
Affiliations	Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association
Website	www.wssu.edu (http://www.wssu.edu)

Atkins studied in the town school under pioneer black educators who came from St. Augustine's Normal and Collegiate Institute (later St. Augustine's College in Raleigh). One of these was Anna Julia Cooper, later prominent for her work as an activist, scholar, feminist, and school administrator in Washington, D.C. This cadre of educators went out into remote communities to teach rural blacks. Atkins also taught at the town school for a while before his college years, and in 1880 he enrolled in St. Augustine's. He spent summers teaching in the rural schools of Chatham and Moore counties.



After he graduated with distinction in 1884, renowned educator and orator Joseph Charles Price, president of Livingstone College, an African Methodist Episcopal Zion church-supported institution in Salisbury, North Carolina, invited Atkins to join his faculty. Atkins agreed and became grammar school department head. He spent six years at Livingstone (1884–90) and spent the last two years of his tenure there in the dual role as educator and treasurer of the college. During summer months he conducted institutes for black teachers in various counties.

The town educators of Winston (before its merger in 1913 with Salem to become Winston-Salem) lured Atkins to the post as principal of the Depot Street School, where he remained from 1890 to 1895. This was the state's largest public school for African Americans. His work with the North Carolina Negro Teachers' Association (NCNTA), which he helped to organize about 1881, had stimulated his interest in teacher-training schools for blacks. He directed this group as it established the foundation for a standard black teachers' college in the state.

Soon after he began his duties at Depot Street, he intensified his efforts to build such a school for African Americans and sought assistance from the Winston Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, and local white residents. By then, the state had begun plans to fund an agricultural college for its African American residents; hearing this, Atkins sought funds to locate the new college in Winston. Local support for this move was good, as the black community donated \$2,000, R. J. Reynolds of tobacco fame contributed \$500, and Atkins obtained 50 acres (200,000 m²) of land along with the backing of the Chamber of Commerce. Although Atkins lobbied the state legislature in Raleigh on behalf of this plan, Winston and its residents lost out to nearby Greensboro, where citizens offered 14 acres (57,000 m²) of land and \$11,000.

Academics

Winston-Salem State offers over 40 academic majors and 10 graduate degrees. The school enrolls approximately 6,400 students and employs 400 faculty and over 800 staff members.^[2]

- Average high school GPA: 3.01^[3]
- Average SAT scores: 900^[3]
- 56.5% of applicants are accepted^[4]

Rankings

Winston-Salem State University was ranked the #14 top college in the United States by the Social Mobility Index college rankings.^[5]

Winston-Salem State has been ranked #27 by *U.S. News & World Report* in the Top Public Comprehensive Baccalaureate Colleges of the South category between 2001 to 2009. By 2016, the university had fallen to a ranking of #84 in the same category.^[6]

Campus

The campus has more than 40 buildings covering 117 acres (0.47 km²).^[7] WSSU's Diggs Gallery was recognized as one of the top African-American galleries in its region.^[8]

Student activities

Athletics

Winston-Salem State University is currently a part of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) in NCAA Division II. From the 2007-08 season through the 2009-10 season, the Rams competed in the NCAA's Division I Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), despite being a transitional member who attempted to attain full membership within the MEAC or within NCAA Division I, which the Rams were also scheduled to begin full membership and gain access to NCAA tournaments in 2011. However, it never occurred due to financial difficulties.^{[9][10]}



Its colors are red and white and the university mascot is a ram.

In 1967, Winston-Salem State became the first Historically Black College to win an NCAA Basketball Championship. The Rams won the College Division Championship with a 31-1 record. They were led by high-scoring guard Earl Monroe, who averaged an amazing 41.5 points per game that season before being selected second overall in the 1967 NBA Draft by the Baltimore Bullets.

Winston-Salem State played in the 2012 Division II National Championship football game on December 15, 2012. They lost 35-7 to Valdosta State University, finishing the season 14-1, the best of any historically black college/university. The team was led by head coach Connell Maynor and All-American quarterback Kameron Smith.

In August 2010, Winston-Salem State University reinstated their baseball program after a 37 year hiatus. Despite only being the first year of the program, the baseball team managed to win the CIAA Conference Championship and move on to the Atlantic Regional. The team again won the CIAA Conference Championship in 2012, 2013, and 2014, making that four consecutive conference championships in the first four years of the program. The team also achieved success in the 2013 season by earning the program's first ever national ranking of #23 in the country while also hosting the 2013 NCAA Atlantic Regional.

National fraternities and sororities

All of the National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations currently have chapters at Winston-Salem State University except Delta Sigma Theta sorority, who were recently suspended for a 10-year period in April 2010. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated has been reinstated with the university as of December, 2014. The remaining organizations are:

Organization	Symbol	Chapter	Chapter Symbol
Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority	AKA	Gamma Lambda	ΓΛ
Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity	ΑΦΑ	Beta Iota	ΒΙ
Iota Phi Theta fraternity	ΙΦΘ	Kappa	Κ
Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity	ΚΑΨ	Delta Chi	ΔΧ
Omega Psi Phi fraternity	ΩΨΦ	Mu Epsilon	ΜΕ
Phi Beta Sigma fraternity	ΦΒΣ	Delta Alpha	ΔΑ
Sigma Gamma Rho sorority	ΣΓΡ	Rho	Ρ
Zeta Phi Beta sorority	ΖΦΒ	Omega	Ω

Other National fraternities and sororities with registered chapters are members of the Council of Independent Greek Organizations. The current members on campus include:

Organization	Symbol	Chapter	Chapter Symbol
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity	ΦΜΑ	Mu Beta	ΜΒ
Tau Beta Sigma honorary band sorority	ΤΒΣ	Theta Upsilon	ΘΥ
Kappa Kappa Psi honorary band fraternity	ΚΚΨ	Kappa Lambda	ΚΛ
Pi Sigma Epsilon professional sales, marketing, and management fraternity	ΠΣΕ	Zeta Lambda	ΖΛ
Alpha Nu Omega Christian sorority	ΑΝΩ	Pi	Π
Kappa Omicron Tau sorority	ΚΟΤ	Beta Lambda	ΒΛ
Chi Eta Phi nursing sorority	ΧΗΦ	Chi Chi Beta	ΧΧΒ
Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity	ΑΦΩ	Tau Chi	ΤΧ
Swing Phi Swing social fellowship	ΣΦΣ	Groove	
Sigma Phi Omega National Academic Honor & Professional Society in Gerontology	ΣΦΩ	Epsilon Alpha	

Notable alumni

Name	Class year	Notability	Reference(s)
Donald Evans	1987	former NFL player	
Louis Farrakhan	attended	leader of the Nation of Islam	
Oronde Gadsden		former NFL player	
Madie Hall-Xuma	1937	First President of the African National Congress Women's League	http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-2694400062.html
Cleo Hill		former professional basketball player; first player from a CIAA school to be drafted in the first round of the National Basketball Association	
Richard Huntley		former NFL player	
Arrington Jones		former NFL player	
Earl "the Pearl" Monroe	1967	National Basketball Association Hall of Fame inductee	
Lorraine H. Morton	1938	first African-American and longest-serving mayor of Evanston, Illinois	
Timmy Newsome		former NFL player	
Monte Ross	1992	Head Basketball Coach University of Delaware	
Louise Smith		Educator, helped to establish the first kindergarten program in N.C.	
Stephen A. Smith	1989	The Philadelphia Inquirer <i>sports columnist</i> , <i>co-star of ESPN</i>	

		<i>First Take and former host of ESPN's Quite Frankly with Stephen A. Smith</i>	
Yancey Thigpen		former all-pro National Football League player	
Luke Torian	1980	Member of the Virginia House of Delegates from the 35th District	
Theodore "Ted" Blunt		Wilmington, Delaware City Council President	
William Hayes	2008	professional football player	
Jim Reid		former NBA player	
Earl "the Twirl" Williams		professional basketball player	
Clarence "Jeep" Jones	1955	First Black Deputy Mayor of Boston, Former Chair of the BRA	

Notable faculty and staff

Name	Department	Notability	Reference
Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines	Athletics	During his 47-year tenure at WSSU as coach, professor and athletic director, his men's basketball team compiled a record of 828-447. Gaines was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982.	

References

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10. "Winston-Salem ready to return to D-II, CIAA - NCAA Basketball - Sporting News". aol.sportingnews.com. Retrieved 2014-01-25.

External links

- Official website (<http://www.wssu.edu/>)
- Winston-Salem State Athletics website (<http://www.wssurams.com/>)



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| Universities and colleges accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
| Universities and colleges in Winston-Salem, North Carolina

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