

# OLIVIA WHITFIELD

B.A. CANDIDATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A dynamic, motivated, detail-oriented Political Science student with extensive experience in legal assistance, research, and campaign involvement. Known for delivering excellent service in fast-paced environments, with the skill set to organize large-scale events, conduct in-depth research on pressing social issues, and effectively manage grassroots initiatives. Committed to addressing homelessness inequity and civil rights through scholarly research. Exceptional training and academic qualifications, including a Bachelor of Political Science from Winthrop University.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Legal Research and Documentation
- Public Speaking and Presentation
- Policy Research and Analysis
- Written Communication
- Community Outreach
- Attention To Detail
- Ethical Judgment
- Critical Thinking
- Case Analysis

## WORK EXPERIENCE

THE LAW OFFICES OF WILKERSON, JONES, & WILKERSON, ROCK HILL, SC, AUGUST 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024

### LEGAL ASSISTANT INTERN

- Chart successful course of inputting and sorting legal paperwork into streamlined systems to improve accessibility for attorneys and staff.
- Execute legal research for ongoing injury law cases to ensure thorough preparation for legal proceedings.
- Assist attorneys with managing case files to ensure compliance with procedural deadlines and best practices.
- Execute various clerical tasks, such as scheduling meetings and filing documents, to maintain office efficiency.

EVANGELINE HUNDLEY, ROCK HILL, SC, AUGUST 2024 TO NOVEMBER 2024

### CAMPAIGN INVOLVEMENT INTERN

- Organize and manage grassroots campaigns and activities, including events such as "Ladies of the 5th," a virtual gathering for women in South Carolina's 5th Congressional District to discuss political engagement, and campaign rallies in support of Evangeline Hundley.
- Engage with volunteers, supporters, and voters to drive participation and support for campaign initiatives.
- Plan and execute community engagement events to enhance campaign visibility, including "Civic Saturdays," a weekly event inviting local organizations to collaborate with Evangeline Hundley to foster community support and increase voter registration leading up to the November election.
- Collaborate with campaign staff to develop outreach strategies, manage efficient field operations, and mobilize campaign efforts.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC OPINION & POLICY RESEARCH, WINTHROP UNIVERSITY, ROCK HILL, SC, NOVEMBER 2023

### POLL CALLER

- Assisted with state-funded research, the results of which were published in The New York Times.
- Conducted phone surveys on various political and social issues, such as gun control, abortion, and opinions of political candidates running for office, with hundreds of South Carolina residents.
- Partnered with a team of 20 poll callers to meet research targets and ensure data accuracy.
- Demonstrated strong communication skills while engaging with diverse groups of respondents.
- Maintained professional demeanor and composure during challenging survey interactions.

**AFFILIATIONS**

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WINTHROP UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DEMOCRATS WINTHROP UNIVERSITY, ROCK HILL, SC, JANUARY 2024 TO PRESENT

**VICE PRESIDENT**

- Devise outreach strategies to boost student involvement in global and domestic political discussions and promote awareness of international policy.
- Orchestrate voter literacy initiatives to boost student participation in both local and national elections.
- Plan and coordinate events and workshops to educate students on civic duties, including voter registration drives and political advocacy training.
- Facilitate communications between executive members, local political organizations, and the student body to ensure alignment on key issues.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Organized and facilitated a 2024 Presidential Debate Watch party that fostered political engagement and attracted 200+ students.
- Carried out voter registration drives to successfully register over 20 new voters, with additional registrations still being counted.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS, WINTHROP UNIVERSITY, ROCK HILL, SC, JANUARY 2023 TO PRESENT

**COLLEGIATE DELEGATE**

- Execute in-depth research on pressing global issues, such as gender equality, climate action, and global health crises, to develop comprehensive position papers and resolutions.
- Represent assigned member states at multiple Model UN conferences across the South, contributing to high-level debates and policy discussions.
- Coordinate with fellow delegates to draft and negotiate resolutions on international challenges, honing diplomatic and negotiation skills.
- Earn recognition with delegation and committee awards for exceptional participation and performance in simulated UN assemblies.

SECRETARIAT FOR THE WINTHROP UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WINTHROP UNIVERSITY, ROCK HILL, SC, AUGUST 2023 TO APRIL 2024

**SECRETARIAT MEMBER**

- Helped plan and run the 48th annual Model UN conference attended by 500+ high school and college students, ensuring smooth operations and logistics.
- Collaborated with faculty and staff to coordinate event logistics, including venue setup, speaker arrangements, and schedule management.
- Moderated discussions and debates on global issues to guide participants through complex policy simulations.
- Engaged in post-conference evaluations and feedback to identify areas of improvement for future conferences.

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF STUDENT LEADERS, ROCK HILL, SC, AUGUST 2023 TO MAY 2024

**REPRESENTATIVE**

- Acted as a student representative tasked with participating in institutional decision-making processes and advocating for student interests.
- Facilitated discussions between student leaders and university administration on topics such as campus policies, student affairs, and academic programs.
- Served as a member of the Civic Engagement Committee aiming to promote student participation in university governance and community service initiatives.
- Planned and organized the annual trip to the South Carolina State House for 50+ Winthrop students and faculty by coordinating logistics and ensuring engagement with state representatives.

**EDUCATION**

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**BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, EXPECTED SPRING 2026**

*Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC*

*Minors in Legal Studies and Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies*

*Concentration in Pre-Law*

*Honors College*

*Current GPA: 4.0*

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**HOMELESSNESS AND INEQUITY IN AMERICA, WINTHROP UNIVERSITY, ROCK HILL, SC, NOVEMBER 2023 TO PRESENT****RESEARCHER**

- Conduct in-depth research on the political, civil, and social inequities affecting homeless citizens in America, with a specific focus on voting rights.
- Identify key barriers preventing homeless citizens from accessing their right to vote, particularly the challenges faced by non-felon homeless individuals.
- Explore the intersection between civil rights, political duties, and societal obligations, broadening the scope of research to address systemic inequities.
- Present research findings at the South Carolina Political Science Association Conference and the Winthrop University Showcase of Undergraduate Research, receiving recognition for addressing critical social issues.
- Was Accepted to and Presented Research at the Winthrop University Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors, the 2024 South Carolina Political Science Conference, and the 2025 Southern Political Science Conference.

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- President's List, Winthrop University, December 2022, May 2023, December 2023, and May 2024
- West Forum Internship Award, Winthrop University, April 2024
- The Stephen Smith Award for Civically and Politically Engaged Undergraduate Research, Winthrop University, April 2024
- Melford Wilson International Relations Award, Winthrop University, April 2023
- Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, November 2024

**VOLUNTEERISM**

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**NHC HEALTHCARE, ANDERSON, SC, JUNE 2015 TO MARCH 2017****VOLUNTEER**

- Assist with daily care activities for 100+ elderly residents to ensure their comfort and well-being.
- Distribute meals and water to ensure that residents receive proper nutrition and hydration.
- Support staff in creating a positive and nurturing environment for elderly individuals by facilitating engaging activities involving singing, playing games, and reading to promote social interaction.
- Foster meaningful connections with residents to enhance their emotional well-being and quality of life.

**A PLACE FOR HOPE, ROCK HILL, SC, AUGUST 2024 TO PRESENT****VOLUNTEER**

- Provide after-school care and mentorship to 10 children aged 8-16 from underserved and impoverished communities, fostering both academic success and emotional development.
- Assist students with homework by offering individualized support to improve academic performance while promoting personal growth and resilience.
- Create a nurturing and supportive environment to help children develop their social and emotional skills.