

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Official South Carolina Hall of Fame Trustees Announce Inductees for 2017**

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. – The official South Carolina Hall of Fame board of trustees have announced the 2017 inductees, one contemporary and one deceased. Stanley Donen, American film director and choreographer, was selected by the board. The late David Bancroft Johnson, founding President of Winthrop University, is also being recognized for his accomplishments.

“Both inductees have played an important role in South Carolina history, and we are excited to include them among the long list of those previously inducted that have positively impacted our past and present with valuable contributions,” said Dr. Rodger Stroup, Chairman of the Official South Carolina Hall of Fame.

An induction ceremony will take place Friday, May 5 at 5 p.m., at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. The event is open to the public but registration is preferred by emailing [rsvp@winthrop.edu](mailto:rsvp@winthrop.edu).

“David Bancroft Johnson was an influential educator and advocate who tirelessly promoted Winthrop, earning distinction at the state and national levels,” said Winthrop University President Dan Mahony. “It is a tremendous honor to see him recognized here—more than 130 years after Winthrop’s founding—for his leadership and significant contributions to this institution and the field of education.”

The Official S.C. Hall of Fame is located in the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, where attendees are able to learn more about all past inductees and located at 2101 North Oak Street, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Below is some information on the 2017 inductees:

**Stanley Donen** is an American film director and choreographer who has been hailed by David Quinlan as “the King of Hollywood musicals.” Born in Columbia, SC in 1924, his most famous work is *Singin’ In The Rain* (1952) which he co-directed with Gene Kelly. Mr. Donen was nominated for five Directors Guild of America Awards. He produced the 58th Academy Awards ceremony in 1986. In 1998 he received an honorary Academy Award “in appreciation of a body of work marked by grace, elegance, wit, and visual innovation.”

**David Bancroft Johnson (1856-1928)**, founder and first president of Winthrop University (1886-1928), is recognized today as one of South Carolina's great educators. The buildings on the forty-odd acre tract of land that is Winthrop University are monuments to Johnson's ambition and realized dreams. He is buried in the chapel that served Winthrop's first class of students and now serves as his final resting place on the campus of Winthrop University.

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**About the South Carolina Hall of Fame**

The South Carolina Hall of Fame—dedicated Feb. 11, 1973, by Gov. John C. West—was created to recognize and honor those contemporary and past citizens who have made outstanding contributions to South Carolina’s heritage and progress. On Sept. 21, 2001, Gov. Jim Hodges signed into law a bill designating the South Carolina Hall of Fame as the state’s official Hall of Fame.