



Photo by Erin Mizelle

*Winston-Salem Urban League CEO James Perry, right, accepts the award for the organization. The City of Winston-Salem is the sponsor. Ernie Pitt helps give the award.*

## Winston Salem Urban League Organization of the Year

The Winston-Salem Urban League empowers and advocates for a diverse community, and promotes socioeconomic progress and parity through education, training, and civic engagement.

Founded through the efforts of James G. Hanes, a local community leader who was concerned about negative race relations, the "Community Relations Project" was formed. This became the Winston-Salem Urban League in 1953 and was chartered in as an affiliate of the National Urban League in 1955.

In December 2015 James Perry was named as its new president. Perry, who relocated to Winston-Salem from New Orleans where he was chief executive of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center for 10 years, plans to continue the programs of the Urban League, which focus on access to jobs, health-care, education and housing, with a personal goal of making the Winston-Salem Urban League the best in the nation.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

*Tenika Neely, a student with Wake Forest University Innocence & Justice Clinic, accepts the award for the organization. The City of Winston-Salem is the sponsor.*

## Innocence and Justice Clinic of Wake Forest University School of Law

### Organization of the Year

The Innocence and Justice Clinic grew out of the Innocence Project at Wake which began in 2007 and gave students an opportunity to conduct initial case reviews to see if DNA existed which could exonerate the inmate. The Innocence and Justice Clinic was launched in 2009 to provide students with the unique opportunity to learn about the various causes of wrongful convictions – mistaken eyewitness identification, invalid or improper forensic science evidence, jail-house informants, false confessions, ineffective assistance of counsel, police and prosecutorial misconduct – while giving them the opportunity to apply this knowledge to the investigation of cases where newly discovered evidence can prove a client's innocence.