The Spirit of LR Marching Band

After a very proud history of marching band excellence on the Lenoir-Rhyne campus from the 40s thru the 80s, in the early 90s issues of economics and low membership began to plague the LRC Marching Band. At the end of the 1991-1992 school year the decision was made to discontinue the Lenoir-Rhyne College Marching Band.

Conversations of restarting the Lenoir-Rhyne Marching Band began in the mid-2000s. But it wasn’t until 2014 that actions were put into place. Dr. Daniel Kiser, Dean of Arts and Sciences and Director of LR Bands, along with a committee implemented a plan to reinstate marching band on the LRU campus. Mr. Neil Underwood, 32-year veteran high school band director from Lincoln County, was hired as the Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Dan Kiser

In the fall of 2016 the “Spirit of LR” took the field with 61 students. In addition to home football games and other on campus performances, the “Spirit” travels each fall to local high school band competitions performing as the exhibition group. The band has performed annually in the Hickory Christmas Parade, and in 2016 Charlotte’s Novant Health Care Thanksgiving Day Parade. Last year the band traveled to the NC coast and performed for the Crystal Coast Classic Band Festival in Havelock and enjoyed some free time in Atlantic Beach.

Preparations are underway for the “Spirit of LR” to field 100+ members in the 2019-20 season, with a possible performance in the National Cherry Blossom Parade.