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Office of University
Communications

September 18, 2019

Colleges of Distinction Honors GWU for Business, Education, Nursing and Career Development Programs

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Colleges of Distinction, an organization that ranks universities on the basis of student engagement and outcomes, recently recognized Gardner-Webb University in several categories. In addition to honoring GWU as a 2019-2020 Christian College of Distinction, the educational resource has named Gardner-Webb to the following lists:

- North Carolina Colleges of Distinction
- Business Colleges of Distinction
- Education Colleges of Distinction
- Nursing Colleges of Distinction
- Career Development Colleges of Distinction

“We are so very pleased to be included in these rankings,” noted Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU provost and executive vice president. “Among the criteria the Colleges of Distinction uses to evaluate institutions are student engagement, teaching excellence, a campus sense of community, and a strong record of successful outcomes for a school’s graduates. Each of these are priority emphases on the Gardner-Webb campus, where we have seen significant growth in recent years.”

When choosing schools, the Colleges of Distinction team begins with nominations from graduates, high school guidance counselors, and college administrators. Next, they conduct extensive research and interviews to ensure the institutions are in line with the organization’s mission. The process is objective, in-depth, and qualitative; however, the selection team also takes into account such quantitative data as class-size statistics, faculty-to-student ratio, plus retention and four-year graduation rates.



Finally, to be designated a College of Distinction, a school's curriculum must emphasize such core competencies as critical thinking, writing, oral skills, research, and global perspectives. The university must also offer dynamic out-of-classroom learning and study abroad programs.

Gardner-Webb students can participate in a variety of experiences for academic and personal growth. The possibilities include studying in Costa Rica, Italy or Sweden, volunteering in local schools, conducting original research with a faculty mentor, or participating in mission trips in America or around the world.

“At Gardner-Webb, students have the opportunity to receive a world-class education in the context of an intimate community that nurtures values of faith, service and leadership,” Leslie observes. “Creating and implementing a set of student-centered programs that include opportunities like service learning, first-year programs, undergraduate research, global learning and capstone courses are simply an extension of our fundamental commitment to student success.”

Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university. Gardner-Webb emphasizes a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics to prepare students to become effective leaders within the global community. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.

