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Office of University
Communications

April 26, 2019

Ron Beane, of Lenoir, N.C., Receives N.C. Baptist Heritage Award

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—A Lenoir, N.C., man has been recognized for his exemplary giving and service to Gardner-Webb University. Ron Beane received the N.C. Baptist Heritage Award on April 9 in a ceremony sponsored by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the N.C. Baptist Foundation. The award, one of the highest honors given by the convention, is presented to people who have made unique and noteworthy contributions to Baptist life and ministry.

Beane's life has been characterized by his commitment and service to education in Caldwell County and North Carolina, to his church, and to his community. He has served on the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees for nine years.

Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU interim president, described Beane as an exceptional volunteer. "Most of us are familiar with a category of institutional friends about whom we sometimes wonder, 'Where would be without them?' Leslie observed at the award presentation. "They have been part of the life of our institutions not simply for years, but for decades. And they surprise us over and over again with their willingness to work hard, to take on new projects, to help solve our problems, and wherever they are, to identify themselves as a champion and cheerleader in chief for our institutions. Ron Beane is just such an individual for Gardner-Webb University."

A native and current resident of Caldwell County, Beane graduated from Gardner-Webb



Ron Beane, left, receives the N.C. Baptist Heritage Award from Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU interim president.

Junior College in 1957 and received his bachelor's degree from Appalachian State Teacher's College in 1959. He began his teaching career at Davenport Jr. High School, where he also coached basketball. He taught and coached at two other high schools, and his basketball teams went to the state playoffs eight of the 10 years that he coached. Before retiring in 1994 after 35 years of service, Beane served as a principal and an associate superintendent for Caldwell County Schools.

After retirement, he served 12 years as a Caldwell County Commissioner. An avid outdoorsman whose passion is fly fishing and elk hunting, Beane led the effort to acquire the Wild and Scenic River Designation for Wilson Creek in Caldwell County. He serves on the Caldwell Community College Board of Trustees and has also served as a member of the Caldwell County Schools Education Foundation Board. He and his wife sponsor an annual scholarship for a senior at West Caldwell High School.

He has served on several state and national boards and has been active in a number of community organizations. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of Caldwell Opportunities, Koinonia Board of Directors, Blue Ridge Energy's Community Leaders Council, and is chairman of the N. C. Foothills Conservancy. He was inducted into the Caldwell County Sports Hall of Fame in 1995 and was honored with the Caldwell County L.A. Dysart Award in 2006. He was inducted into Gardner-Webb's Gallery of Distinguished Alumni in 2006 as well as the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor in 2007. Gov. Bev Perdue awarded him the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2012.

Beane is a member of Mountain Grove Baptist Church, where he is a Sunday School teacher and has previously served as chairman of the board of deacons. He and his wife, Christine, have two children, Paige B. Harris, a vice president with Atlanta Federal Reserve, and Dr. Scott Beane, a pediatrician in Easley, S.C. They have four grandchildren, one is currently a junior at Gardner-Webb.

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.