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8-6-2018


### **GWU School of Education Online Master's Program Recognized With National Award**

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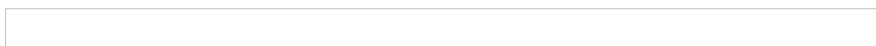
# GWU School of Education Online Master's Program Recognized With National Award

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Office of University  
Communications

August 6, 2018

*Academically and Intellectually Gifted Concentration Receives Top Ranking from TheBestSchools.org*



BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The School of Education at Gardner-Webb University has received national recognition from TheBestSchools.org. The online master's degree in curriculum and instruction with a concentration that leads to academically gifted licensure ranked 18<sup>th</sup> among colleges offering such programs.

TheBestSchools.org reviewed all accredited online master's in gifted and talented education programs in the U.S. to select the top 30. The selections are based on six informational categories, including curriculum, faculty scholarship, reputation among academic peers and employers, financial aid, range of degree programs, and strength of online instruction methodology.

Dr. Jennifer Putnam, GWU assistant professor and coordinator of the Master's of Teacher Leadership in Curriculum and Instruction (MTLCI) Program, describes the curriculum's strengths. "The Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) concentration within the MTLCI program is designed to help master's candidates focus on differentiation for the gifted learner while giving them opportunities to apply research-based best practices to communicate more effectively with families of AIG learners," Putnam shared. "The design of online content helps candidates advocate for issues related to supporting AIG learners, families, and teachers while examining both local and global curriculum."

TheBestSchools.org praised Gardner-Webb's program for its integrative structure that allows students to learn and practice the advanced skills needed to motivate gifted learners. The editors also pointed out that as students work together in a cohort, they build relationships and learn from each other.

"At Gardner-Webb, we are always gratified to see external validations of our efforts to provide quality graduate programs in a variety of professional areas," affirmed Dr. Benjamin Leslie, GWU provost and executive vice president. "We are especially proud of the concentration in Academically and Intellectually Gifted Education that is addressing a critical need in North Carolina and has the potential to bring real value to our region."

The mission of TheBestSchools.org is to provide the best resources and advice to assist learners through every step for their education, into their careers, and toward sustainable lifelong learning. The resource is an organizational member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

[Learn more about the programs offered by the GWU School of Education.](#)

*Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb ignites learning and service opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.*