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Office of University
Communications

February 14, 2018

Students to Participate in Seventh Consecutive Ethics Bowl

By Chelsea Sydnor, '18, Intern for Communications

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Four Gardner-Webb University students will compete at the Ethics Bowl hosted by North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU). Teams from 24 private colleges and universities will participate in the event, which will be held Feb. 16 and 17 at the Legislative Complex in Raleigh, N.C.

The GWU team includes senior Harley Burgess of Forest City, N.C., as well as freshmen Destiny Neesmith of Kings Mountain, N.C., Carlee Winstead of Jacksonville, N.C., and Darby Yates of Hickory, N.C. Dr. Kent Blevins, professor of religious studies, serves as campus coordinator.

The NCICU Ethics Bowl aims to emphasize applied ethics as part of the student experience at the state's independent colleges and universities. This year, 127 students will address ethical issues by responding to case studies reflecting the theme, "Ethics and the Future of Community."

Burgess will be competing for her third time. She says studying the ever-changing topics has increased her awareness of controversial and relevant issues and benefited her college experience. "The Ethics Bowl is an excellent opportunity to network and expose oneself to differing perspectives," Burgess affirmed.

She believes the freshmen on the GWU team are building a strong foundation for the future. She also encourages students with an interest in discussing ethical issues or who have previous debate experience to contact Blevins about joining the group.

Neesmith says that practicing for the competition has given her the opportunity to express her thoughts without fear of her opinion being dismissed. "I look forward to having healthy conversations about problems that are occurring in our country," she said. "Without knowledge, it's impossible to form an opinion on these issues."

According to Blevins, the students work well together and complement each other's strengths. "I have no doubt that they will represent Gardner-Webb well at this year's Ethics Bowl," he assessed.

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.