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Office of University
Communications

February 13, 2018

Agreement Provides Seamless Transition for Students Pursuing Bachelor's and Master's Degrees



Richmond Community College and Gardner-Webb University signed an agreement that will allow RichmondCC graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing program to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Gardner-Webb. Pictured are, from left, Dr. Dale McInnis, president of RichmondCC; Kevin Parsons, vice president for Instruction at RichmondCC; Candice Rome, GWU Hunt School of Nursing program coordinator; and Dr. Sharon Starr, associate provost for the GWU College of Health Sciences.

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Gardner-Webb University and Richmond Community College recently signed an agreement to benefit nursing students seeking advanced degrees. The partnership will allow RichmondCC graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Gardner-Webb.

This articulation agreement is the first of its kind that Gardner-Webb has developed with a community college. Under the agreement, Gardner-Webb will accept up to 90 credit hours from RichmondCC toward the BSN, providing RichmondCC nursing graduates a significant savings on tuition and fees in pursuing their BSN. Students who complete the BSN can continue into the GWU Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program.

“This agreement will impact both of our institutions, but we feel the impact and benefit this partnership will have for our students is more important, because of the seamless transition to their bachelor’s and master’s degrees,” said Dr. Sharon Starr, associate provost for the College of Health Sciences at Gardner-Webb. “This is significant because the nursing profession is pushing more and more for a baccalaureate or higher degree.”

The Institute of Medicine’s 2011 report on the future of nursing focuses on the need to increase the level of nursing education in today’s nursing workforce. The goal set forth by the Institute of Medicine is an increase of BSN-prepared nurses to 80 percent by 2020.



Starr noted that not all students who dream of becoming a nurse have the means to go to a four-year school to get a bachelor's degree. "This partnership will impact the delivery of quality healthcare in this community by providing a cost effective way for these nurses to increase their level of education. It will also provide a more educated workforce for all the healthcare facilities that are in this area," Starr said.

RichmondCC has a long history partnering with Gardner-Webb and has been offering Gardner-Webb classes on campus since the 1980s. Dr. Dale McInnis, president of RichmondCC, said he was proud to be blazing this new trail with the University. "What you see today is an example of two great institutions working together to be innovative, creative and forward thinking," McInnis said. "Gardner-Webb has been both responsive and creative in tackling the challenges that students in our communities are facing."

The Hunt School of Nursing at Gardner-Webb University will begin accepting RichmondCC's ADN graduates 2018 fall semester in the RN-to-BSN program.

To learn more, call Jessi Cevallos, GWU nursing enrollment development officer, at 704-406-2461.

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.