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Office of University
Communications

June 23, 2017

Affordable Colleges Online (ACO) Gives GWU Top Marks for Quality, Value

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University is being recognized for the quality and value of its web-based learning

Affordable Online Colleges badge

opportunities and was recently honored for its online teacher preparation program. Affordable Colleges Online (ACO), based in Reno, Nev., ranked Gardner-Webb 26th in the nation among institutions that offer an online elementary education degree.

“We are certainly gratified by the recognition by Affordable Colleges Online,” said Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President. “We are committed to value at Gardner-Webb and to making our programs affordable as possible. We are also committed to providing a creative, engaging and high-quality learning experience for our students in the online environment. Online education is nothing new at Gardner-Webb. We were pioneers in the field 15 years ago. So we have the experience and the resources to deliver a product that students find attractive.”

Through the Degree Completion Program (DCP) at Gardner-Webb, students can take online courses to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration, computer information systems, criminal justice, elementary education, entrepreneurship, healthcare management, nursing, and religion. Master's degrees in accounting, business administration, international business administration, nursing, and sport pedagogy are also available in online formats at GWU.

According to ACO, scoring was based on a variety of factors, such as: online tuition rate, undergraduate student-faculty ratio, six-year graduation rate, percent of students receiving financial aid, academic and career counseling services, job placement opportunities for graduates, acceptance rate, loan default rate, and more.

ACO was established in 2012 to help parents and students locate educational opportunities that balance overall cost and program quality. In addition, the organization aims to offer information about the importance of accreditation. “As online classes become more prevalent, it is important to acknowledge the colleges and universities that go above and beyond,” said Dan Schuessler, founder and CEO of Affordable Colleges Online. “Our goal is to highlight these schools and their commitment to higher education. When it comes to

online learning, these schools set the bar. These programs have made attending college accessible and affordable while maintaining rigorous academic standards of excellence and providing support services for their students.”

AffordableColleges.com Value weighs criteria, such as loan default rates, graduation rates, and financial aid data, to draw a distinction between the programs that appear cheap up-front and those that will pay off in the long run. When calculating the rankings, ACO uses the most recent data available from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

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.