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April 27, 2017

Randy Marion Receives N.C. Baptist Heritage Award

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—A Mooresville, N.C., businessman has been recognized for his exemplary giving and service to Gardner-Webb

photo of Randy Marion

University. Randall “Randy” L. Marion received the N.C. Baptist Heritage Award on April 25 in a ceremony sponsored by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the N.C. Baptist Foundation.

Marion serves Gardner-Webb as a trustee and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Gardner-Webb in December 2012. A friend once described him as “a man of great vision, with the passion and drive to see those visions through to fruition.” He embodies the type of entrepreneurial spirit and professional integrity that GWU aspires to instill in its students. Marion is owner of Randy Marion Chevrolet Buick Cadillac, with dealerships in Mooresville, Huntersville, and Statesville. He was recognized by General Motors as the largest retail and fleet sales volume dealer in the Carolinas for more than six years, the largest in the Southeast in both 2010 and 2011, and the nation’s fifth largest in 2009. He was named North Carolina Dealer of the Year in 2003 by Time Magazine. In 2013, he was selected the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce’s Business Person of the Year.

“Yet, it is not Randy’s long list of business accomplishments that sets him apart,” observed Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President. “Instead, it is his generosity and his passion for giving back to his community that inspires others to reach higher and achieve more. He is a blessing to those who know him.”

In his many years of civic and philanthropic leadership, Marion has served as Chairman of the Board for Lake Norman Regional Medical Center and has chaired and served on numerous other professional and civic boards in Mooresville. He was a member of the founding Board of Directors of the Mooresville Soup Kitchen, which today feeds up to 14,000 people each year. For these and other outstanding accomplishments, Marion was awarded “the Order of the Long Leaf Pine” in 2001 by the Governor of North Carolina.

The grandson of a West Virginia Baptist pastor, Marion is also a man of deep spiritual conviction. He gives generously to a program that supports Baptist pastors in West Virginia, and he is a deacon at his home church, First Baptist Church of Mooresville, where

he has chaired the Stewardship Committee. Marion reserves the greatest love and commitment for his family. The pride and joy of his life are his wife Betty, his children Randy Jr. and Jennifer Marion Mills and their spouses, and his six grandchildren.

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.