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Office of University
Communications

November 22, 2016

Program will Prepare Students to Meet Law Enforcement Concerns of the 21st Century

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Gardner-Webb University will offer a new undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice Administration, beginning in fall 2017. The Bachelor of Science program will incorporate the University's liberal arts interdisciplinary education with knowledge in social, political, domestic and global criminal justice issues.

Dr. Bobbie Cox, associate professor of criminal justice, devised the curriculum from her 30 years of experience in the criminal justice field and 25 years of teaching experience. "I wanted to develop a 21st century criminal justice program," Cox affirmed. "Our program will provide students a unique opportunity to study cybercrime, homeland security, terrorism and intelligence that incorporate science and technology in investigative strategies. Our professors are well accomplished academically in their disciplines and additionally, they have extensive professional experience in these areas to share with their students."

The curriculum model will provide student-centered programs of study based on current law enforcement, societal and political demands of criminal justice officers to meet the growing local, national and global law enforcement and homeland security concerns of society. The Criminal Justice Administration major requires 36 hours, with an overall requirement of 128 hours to complete the Bachelor of Science Degree. There is an opportunity for students to complete a minor in other related fields such as psychology, sociology, accounting, or science. Requirements include participation in field experiences or an internship in a criminal justice agency. Study abroad options will also be offered.

"The courses offered in the Criminal Justice Administration major will prepare our students with a level of higher education that includes increased critical-thinking, ethical decision-making, and multi-cultural communication skills in addition to providing a solid foundation of technical and professional skills to address the needs of our evolving, complex society," Cox explained.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the criminal justice career sector is one of the fastest growing in the United States. Students who graduate with the Criminal Justice Administration Degree will be prepared for careers at the federal, state, county and local

levels, as well as in the private sector. In addition to law enforcement careers, bachelor degree holders can also work as crime scene investigators, probation officers, correctional administrators, crime analysts, fraud investigators, private detectives, accounting jobs, federal drug agents, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) special agents, State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) special agents, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special agents or State Highway Patrol (SHP).

For more information about the Criminal Justice Administration major, email Dr. Bobbie Cox at bcox@gardner-webb.edu or call 704-406-4627.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).