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Recommended Citation

Office of University Communications, "Faculty in Hunt School of Nursing Help Student Achieve Her Goal" (2016). *Gardner-Webb NewsCenter Archive*. 785.

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Office of University
Communications

September 2, 2016

Karen Cochran ('14) Follows Example of GWU Mentors

As a student in the Master of Science in Nursing Education program at Gardner-Webb, Karen Cochran ('14) of Arden, N.C., discovered supportive professors who wanted to help her reach her goal of becoming an educator. One professor talked to her on the phone one evening about a concept she was struggling to understand. Another professor helped her conquer statistics, and her thesis advisor provided support and guidance throughout the research and writing process.

These professors are her role models, and they taught her how to lead her own classroom. "The curriculum covered everything I needed to become a faculty member at a university or an educator in any setting," Cochran affirmed. "The faculty set a high standard, but helped students reach it. I think the program is far stronger than what I've seen from others."

After receiving her degree, Cochran was hired at Western Carolina University (WCU) in Cullowhee, N.C., as the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Workforce Diversity Grant Program Director. "As part of this role I manage a scholarship program for RN (registered nurse) to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) students. I am part of the faculty, and I host a regional conference each year, the Annual Western North Carolina Rural Health Symposium," Cochran elaborated. "This role offers a variety of growth opportunities for me. By helping others in so many ways, I feel like I am doing good deeds. It is a very rewarding job."