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Office of University
Communications

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Classes Challenge Roberta F. Callaway ('16) to be a Conduit for Change

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – While working on her Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at Gardner-Webb, Roberta F. Callaway ('16) of Stantonsburg, N.C., was asked to complete a self-assessment. The exercise in introspection proved to be the most beneficial in preparing her for the next step in her career.

“The authentic leadership assignment required me to thoroughly reflect on my top five core values and beliefs,” she explained. “Although I deeply held the values, I didn’t look at their effect on how I lived my life, my job, or a perceived leadership position. I decided to make adjustments on my job. I began to consider the differences in the beliefs and values of those around me. I knew we could use our different perspectives to grow professionally, so I began the practice of looking for strengths in others and using those strengths as opportunities for growth.”

She was further challenged by Dr. Jenny Sabin, GWU adjunct professor, to be a conduit for change. “She helped me understand the gradual and ongoing nature of personal and organizational change,” Callaway affirmed. “She inspired me to use constructive criticism as a means to improve, and provided immeasurable support throughout the dissertation process.”

With the information she learned in her doctoral classes, Callaway was able to make improvements in how she conducted her job. “My clinical experience assignments helped me gain a thorough understanding of the interconnection of school, community, and curriculum with student achievement,” she assessed. “I became more involved in the inner workings of my school, community, and district.”

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).