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Gardner-Webb University Hunt School of Nursing Takes Pledge on Opioid Education

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Office of University
Communications

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Initiative Launched as Part of White House “Champions of Change” Event

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – As part of academic nursing’s ongoing efforts to combat prescription drug and opioid abuse across the United States, Gardner-Webb University’s Hunt School of Nursing is proud to announce that it has committed to educating its advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) students on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.

The commitment was recently featured in a White House fact sheet as part of the White House Champions of Change event on Advancing Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. Earlier this month, the Administration asked the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s (AACN) member schools with APRN programs to partner on this initiative. GWU recognizes that opioid abuse is a pressing public health crisis, and it is critical that APRN students receive education on current standards.

“The Hunt School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner program has dedicated a significant portion of our curriculum to pharmacology and safe prescribing practices,” said Dr. Anna Hamrick, assistant professor of nursing and director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program at GWU. “We are proud to be a part of the AACN initiative to fully integrate the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain into nurse practitioner education. Our region of North Carolina has been especially hit hard by the ‘opioid epidemic’ and we recognize the need to heighten awareness of the issues surrounding opioid medications in the next generation of primary care providers for our region.”

AACN’s President and CEO Dr. Deborah Trautman recently offered remarks at the White House to recognize the 191 AACN-member nursing schools that have taken this pledge.

“AACN is proud of the rapid response by our membership when the administration called to help ensure that future generations of providers who prescribe opioids for chronic pain are prepared for the critical work ahead,” said Trautman. “We commend academic nursing’s dedication to ensuring our nation’s future providers are prepared to address opioid abuse and overdose using best practices.”

For a complete list of AACN member schools that have pledged, visit aacn.nche.edu/opioids.

For over 50 years, the Gardner-Webb University Hunt School of Nursing has educated quality, highly-skilled nursing professionals. The school offers nursing degrees from the associate to doctorate levels and has awarded nearly 3,500 total degrees. Accreditation is maintained through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc. (ACEN). For more information, visit gardner-webb.edu/nursing.

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).