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### **GWU Athletic Training was Right Choice for Transfer Student**

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# GWU Athletic Training was Right Choice for Transfer Student

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Office of University  
Communications

January 18, 2016

## *Taylor Thompson ('16) Experiences Personal and Professional Growth*

Taylor Thompson ('16) of Mooresville, N.C., transferred to athletic training at Gardner-Webb University with a specific goal in mind. She wanted to excel on the Board of Certification Exam for athletic trainers.

“My previous institution had a very low exam pass rate,” she shared. “I found Gardner-Webb by searching for schools in North Carolina that have an athletic training program. Gardner-Webb had a high pass rate.”

From the moment she contacted Dr. Heather Hudson, dean of the Gardner-Webb School of Preventive and Rehabilitative Health Sciences, she knew the University was the right choice.

“Dr. Hudson gave me all the information I needed, and I decided to attend after my campus visit, which confirmed that transferring here was the right path for me,” Thompson recalled. “Part of what attracted me to Gardner-Webb is the Christian community. My relationship with God is at its strongest when I am surrounded by other Christians who can pour into me and allow me to pour into them as well.”

Since transferring, she feels she has grown as a student, leader, and future professional. She serves as president of the Athletic Training Student Club and is also a member of the worship team at Broad River Community Church.

“Dr. Hudson gives so many opportunities for us to grow and mature in both athletic training and in life,” Thompson confirmed. “Whether I have a question about class, a personal issue, or just need to talk, Dr. Hudson shows unconditional support. From the classroom to clinical experience, I have had so many more opportunities to grow in my career. I transferred here not knowing if I would ever be a good athletic trainer, but now I feel confident in my skills. The leadership in our program is constantly encouraging us.”

Thompson chose to major in athletic training with the intention of going to physical therapy school. After shadowing a Physician Assistant (PA) in her hometown, she has decided to start applying to PA schools.

“I chose athletic training as a gateway to higher levels of education,” she assessed. “Athletic training was the perfect choice in major, because it provides students with hands-on experience on actual patients. In addition, my advisor has encouraged and provided all of the athletic training students to consider graduate schools and career paths. My experience here has been so life-impacting that I would absolutely encourage others to consider Gardner-Webb. I have found a very stable network of support here through students and faculty. My two years at Gardner-Webb have been the best of my life.”