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Tuition-Free Program to Help Students Build Professional Experience

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Office of University
Communications

December 1, 2015

Gardner-Webb Launches Certified Internship Program

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University’s Office of Career Development began a new program this fall that is designed to help students apply for and earn internships as well as provide assistance throughout the process with skills to prepare for future careers.

Internships with the Certified Internship Program (CIP) will begin in the 2016 spring semester and the CIP will aid students in building resumes, practicing for interviews, and learning about networking through workshops and tutorials. While it is a tuition-free program, it does not offer course credit. Anne Mason, coordinator of the program, said she hopes it “provides students with an opportunity to be prepared and develop themselves both personally and professionally before departing from Gardner-Webb.”

There are a few requirements for students who choose to enter the program, including the completion of a minimum of 50 internship hours during the semester. However, students can decide customize their schedule with their employer and determine the number of hours they are available to work each week.

Additionally, students will have the ability to consider careers that are outside their major. “We want students to explore what it is like to gain experience relating to their goals,” shared Mason. “It’s wonderful if they want to align their experience with their major, but perhaps they are interested in exploring something new—such as joining the Peace Corps—after they graduate. This program gives them the chance to do that.”

Not only is Mason working with students, but she is also educating employers to ensure that both students and supervisors can have the best internship experience possible. “Internships are one of the many ways that students can take advantage of opportunities that are literally sitting in front of them,” commented Mason. The program will be offered every semester, and applications for the summer semester will be available in the spring.

Once students have submitted their CIP applications, a workshop titled “Finding an Internship 101,” will be held near the end of every semester. In this session, students are provided with the tools, resources, and useful information for their search to find an internship. Students will secure internships for the upcoming semester before departing campus so that upon their return they can begin their internships.

More information about the program is available by contacting Mason at amason1@gardner-webb.edu.

Click below to hear the full WGWG.org interview with Anne Mason:

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University provides exceptional educational opportunities within a Christian environment, preparing students to think critically, to succeed professionally, and to serve faithfully as members of their local and global communities.