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Communications

November 6, 2014

Organization Ranks MBA Degree Among Best in Country

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Gardner-Webb University's online Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree ranks among the top programs in the country, according to a recent study of more than 300 universities that offer the distinction. Compiled by OnlineMBAReport.com, the recognition marks the third time this year that the University's online graduate business programs have received national honors.

Online MBA Report (OMBAR) ranks Gardner-Webb at No. 33 overall nationwide for MBA programs, ahead of schools including Florida State University (Tallahassee, Fla.), Mississippi State University (Starkville, Miss.), East Carolina University (Greenville, N.C.) and Pepperdine University (Malibu, Calif.). The study places GWU No. 5 among private schools and No. 11 in the South.

The rankings provide potential MBA candidates with information to make an informed choice about the degree they choose to pursue, but they also deliver an academic opportunity for Gardner-Webb, said Dr. Felice Policastro, graduate business programs director and professor of international business and finance.

"GWU offers great programs, and these rankings will help us to attract, retain and graduate outstanding students, not only in business but also in other disciplines," Policastro explained. "We will keep doing the things that have worked for us, and we are constantly trying to create new ideas to continue improving student and employer satisfaction."

Criteria for determining the OMBAR rankings include academic reputation, tuition value, and enrollment numbers. Sources of that data include information from reputable publications such as U.S. News & World Report and the Princeton Review, surveys of schools that offer an MBA program online, and information available publicly on university websites.

"At Gardner-Webb, we know that business professionals have high expectations for their continuing education," said GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie. "Nowhere is this more true than in the competitive market for MBA programs. If we are to compete successfully in that market, we know we have to focus on quality, on student

service and, most of all, on the distinctive character of the Christian context that informs everything we do at Gardner-Webb. These have been the guiding values for our online graduate, business programs.”

Earlier this year, U.S. News & World Report ranked GWU No. 1 in the Carolinas for high-quality online graduate business programs for military veterans. In October, topmanagementdegrees.com ranked the University No. 7 nationwide for online master’s degree programs that train human resources professionals.

“These accolades are certainly the product of the guidance and support of our leaders,” Policastro offered, “and the fervent participation of a team of excellent professors, staff, advisory board members and students who are committed to serve God by teaching and learning.”

Online MBA Report provides information for prospective business school students to help individuals identify the best programs and select the correct fit for graduate education.

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.