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### GWU Climbs List of Best Colleges in South

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# GWU Climbs List of Best Colleges in South

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Office of University  
Communications

September 16, 2014

## *U.S. News Ranks Gardner-Webb Among Top Regional Universities*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Gardner-Webb University ranks high among the best regional colleges and universities in all of the southeastern United States, according to a new assessment released by U.S. News & World Report.

U.S. News ranked Gardner-Webb No. 34 in the South in a nationwide report on more than 600 regional colleges, which the organization defined as higher-education institutions that offer a full range of undergrad programs, select master's programs and a few doctoral programs. The ranking is one of many indicators that the University continues to improve its service to students and the community, GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Ben Leslie said.

“It’s encouraging to see that our peers across the country are recognizing that some exciting improvements have been underway on the Gardner-Webb campus for some time now,” Leslie shared. “I would speculate that the addition of new programs such as our Physician Assistant Studies program and the Family Nurse Practitioner program, along with the addition of the well-equipped Tucker Student Center and the John Henry Moss baseball stadium, have certainly contributed to our rise in the rankings.”

The U.S. News rating marks a continued improvement for Gardner-Webb since a 2008 evaluation that ranked the University at No. 55 in the South. The previous report, released in 2013, ranked GWU No. 41 in the region.

Numerous criteria factored into determining Gardner-Webb’s standing, including undergraduate academic reputation, student retention, faculty resources, financial resources, graduation rate, and alumni giving rate. Report data also includes information on tuition, total enrollment, acceptance rates, freshman retention rates, graduation rates, and class sizes.

“Improving the quality of graduate and undergraduate education in the context of Christian faith is a huge priority for Gardner-Webb,” Leslie offered. “The U.S. News rankings provide one bit of evidence of a school’s overall quality, and hopefully young people looking for a college or university will use the rankings, along with other bits of evidence, to help make the decision of where to go to college.”

**Click [here](#) for access to the U.S. News report.**

*U.S. News & World Report is a digital and print publisher of news and information, including annual authoritative rankings of the best colleges, best graduate schools and best hospitals in the United States.*

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for professional success and for productive citizenship.*