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### Gardner-Webb to Honor Community Partners

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# Gardner-Webb to Honor Community Partners

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Office of University  
Communications

September 10, 2014

## *Hometown Heroes Program to Recognize GWU Supporters During Football Game*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Gardner-Webb University and the Town of Boiling Springs have partnered together for more than a century to serve a broad community of students and residents. The University will thank the town for its support by honoring select personnel this weekend.

GWU will recognize Boiling Springs government leaders, police and fire servicemen, town workers, and business owners in a Hometown Heroes celebration Saturday, Sept. 13. The events are set to take place during Gardner-Webb's 2014 home football opener versus Virginia University of Lynchburg, which kicks off at 6 p.m. in Spangler Stadium.

Gardner-Webb is excited to honor citizens who improve the quality of life for the campus and community, said Chuck Burch, GWU Vice President for Athletics.

"In communities such as ours, the townspeople and campus community use many of the same services, regularly interact with one another throughout town and across the campus, and share in each other's triumphs and challenges," Burch proclaimed. "This enhances the college experience for our students and adds to the appeal of Gardner-Webb University."

Boiling Springs Mayor Max Hamrick will serve as the honorary team captain for Gardner-Webb's football game. Members of the Boiling Springs Board of Commissioners and town operations staff members will also be honored, in addition to local fire and police personnel and GWU police officers.

"The town staff has maintained great working relationships with all their counterparts at Gardner-Webb because we have a lot of overlapping goals and interests," Boiling Springs Town Manager Tom Hart shared. "Working together just makes sense."

Gardner-Webb staff members and Runnin' Bulldogs football players have visited local businesses this week to encourage teamwork between the community and the University. When the football team breaks for halftime during Saturday's game, community members and groups will be recognized, said Katie Spiro, GWU Marketing & Promotions Assistant for Athletics.

"Boiling Springs is more than a community," Spiro offered. "It is a home for our students. From the waitress, to the store clerk, to the police officer, this town is full of everyday heroes. This theme is just a small token of the appreciation our university has for the town

of Boiling Springs.”

Saturday’s Hometown Heroes event is the first of several recognition programs on the 2014 Gardner-Webb home football schedule. The next program is Military Appreciation Day, set for Saturday, Sept. 20, as the Runnin’ Bulldogs host Wofford.

*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.*