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Gardner-Webb Program Connects High School Students, Business Leaders

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Office of University Communications

June 3, 2014

Registration Open for Ninth Annual B.E.S.T. Program, Set for July 23-25

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Local high school students will learn professional skills from business leaders next month in a free program at Gardner-Webb University. The GWU Godbold School of Business presents the 9th annual B.E.S.T. (Bringing Executives and Students Together) Program from July 23-25.

The program gives rising 10th, 11th and 12th graders an opportunity to learn from entrepreneurs and other community leaders. This year's B.E.S.T. Program activities include workshops on business, finance and marketing; GWU campus tours; outdoor activities; opportunities to meet new friends; and guest speakers from local businesses and civic groups. Past guest speakers include leaders from Wal-Mart, Shelby Police Department, *The Star* newspaper and the Cleveland County (N.C.) commissioners.

B.E.S.T. offers teens a chance to develop career skills in a fun atmosphere, according to Jasmine Brown, who participated in the program the past two years. "I learned about how to dress when going to a job interview and things I can do that will better prepare me for college," she reflected.

GWU will host B.E.S.T. from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. "We try to add to the value of what these students are already learning at their high schools, taking those principles outside the classroom and teaching the students to apply what they know," said Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, dean of the Godbold School of Business.

Transportation from local high schools to Gardner-Webb will be available, and a light breakfast, snack and lunch will be provided each day. At the conclusion of the program, each participant will receive a B.E.S.T. certificate.

Registration is open now through July 2, with a form available online at gardner-webb.edu/best-program. For more information, contact Natetsa Lawrence at 704-406-2260 or tlawrence@gardner-webb.edu.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and

leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).