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Gardner-Webb to Honor Martin Luther King, Jr. with DVD Presentation

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Office of University Communications

January 17, 2014

Students Will Hear Historic “I Have a Dream” Speech at Dimensions Jan. 21

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Dimensions program at Gardner-Webb University will be showing the “I Have a Dream” Speech in its entirety. The DVD presentation will be shared with students and the public on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 9:25 a.m. in Paul Porter Arena, located inside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center (LYCC).

Known as one of the greatest orators in American history, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream Speech,” on Aug. 28, 1963, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Speaking in front of 250,000 supporters of the March on Washington, King advocated for racial equality around the country for generations to come.

“Last fall marked the 50th anniversary of the ‘I Have a Dream’ speech, which is one of the most famous speeches given in the history of the United States,” said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister at GWU. “The speech is less than 18 minutes long and I felt it was important for our students to have the opportunity to hear it in its entirety as part of Gardner-Webb’s recognition of the MLK holiday.”

As an activist, humanitarian and pastor, King set an example and led the way for the African-American Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 60s. Inspired by Gandhi and David Thoreau, King took to nonviolent acts of civil disobedience by organizing boycotts, marches and sit-ins to fight injustice in the segregated South.

“Since the speech remains the intellectual property of the King Center, I am grateful to the King Center for allowing us to show this historic speech in Dimensions,” added Jessup.

King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his work to overcome racial inequality through nonviolence. After being assassinated in 1968, King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was officially declared a federal holiday in 1986. For more information about King, visit thekingcenter.org.

Gardner-Webb University’s Dimensions programs are free and open to the public. The goal of Dimensions is to enhance the spiritual, intellectual and cultural life at the University and also to promote a sense of community. Dimensions programs are held on Tuesday at 9:25 a.m. in the LYCC. More information is available by calling 704-406-4277.

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.