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Office of University Communications

January 8, 2014

Gardner-Webb University’s Graduate Schools of Business, Education, and Nursing Honored

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The U.S. News and World Report “2014 Best Online Graduate Programs” rankings are in, and Gardner-Webb University is being counted among the nation’s best with three of its online graduate program offerings.

The GWU Godbold Graduate School of Business, the GWU Graduate School of Education, and the GWU Graduate School of Nursing all showed significant improvement from last year’s scores. Each program landed in the top third of total college and university rankings for 2014.

Each year, U.S. News and World Report surveys institutions and compiles statistical information to score online graduate education programs of colleges and universities across the country. They analyze data such as student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology.

“Online education is becoming an essential part of the higher education landscape,” according to Eric Brooks of USNews.com. “This year we had another significant increase in the number of online degree programs reporting data across all six surveyed fields. Nearly 1,000 distance education programs submitted a completed U.S. News questionnaire during the summer of 2013, a 16 percent increase from the 860 the previous year.”

In 2013, the Godbold School of Business was ranked number 72 with a score of 47.6 points. This year, the program received a ranking of 46 with a score of 72. At number 55, the GWU School of Education earned a much higher score than last year with 72 points, compared with a score of 55.3 in 2013. The Graduate School of Nursing made the list for the first time with a score of 69 and a ranking of 68, which officials say is a great benchmark for noting improvement.

“The members of the School of Nursing faculty are very proud of this national ranking,” said Dr. Sharon Starr, dean of the GWU School of Nursing. “This is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of each member of the MSN faculty and of the support the School of Nursing receives from the Gardner-Webb University administration.”

Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, dean of the Godbold School of Business, concurs. "Our faculty, students, and administrators deserve all of the credit," he shared. "We are honored to be recognized as one of the top online business schools in the country. The consistent, national recognition of the Godbold School of Business is an affirmation of our relentless pursuit of excellence in business education. Our graduates leave here prepared to adapt to new companies, cultures, and situations without compromising their integrity."

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 55 major and minor professional programs of study, a comprehensive academic experience that flows from our Christian commitment to intellectual freedom, service and leadership.