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Gardner-Webb Nursing Scholarship Established in Memory of Alumnus Jimmy Melton

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Office of University Communications

January 7, 2014

Monies Will Support Students in New Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Last spring, Jimmy Melton said goodnight to his kids and bid his wife farewell. He was heading to the beach to take part in a Relay for Life fundraiser, in which he served as a wheelchair-pusher. He successfully completed the event, returned to his hotel room, and went to bed.

He never woke up.

The 40-year-old suffered an unexpected massive heart attack and died. As an operating room nurse at Rutherford Medical center, he had earned his Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) degree at Isothermal Community College, his Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN-RN) at Gardner-Webb University, and his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He was planning to enroll in the new Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program at Gardner-Webb. His family decided the best way to honor his life would be to establish a scholarship in his memory.

"In appreciation for generous support of Gardner-Webb University, the University commits to naming 'The Jimmy Melton Family Nurse Practitioner Endowed Scholarship' to provide financial assistance to full-time students attending Gardner-Webb University," the scholarship agreement stated.

Recipients of aid from the scholarship fund will be selected by the admissions and financial planning offices of the University, with preference given to worthy and needy students enrolling in the FNP program at GWU.

A ceremony announcing the establishment of the scholarship was held Friday, Jan. 3 at 1:30 p.m. in Hope Hall on the campus of Gardner-Webb University. The fund will remain openended and individuals, churches, or other interested parties can make additional gifts at any time.

For more information on estate planning, endowments or other planned gifts, contact Matt Walters in the Gardner-Webb University Office of Planned Giving at 704-406-2237.

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).