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Career Nurse Aims to Maintain the Quality of the Current Programs

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University is thrilled to announce that Dr. Sharon Starr has been appointed as the new dean of the School of Nursing and officially began her duties on July 1. Starr returns to GWU, where she served as a member of the nursing faculty from 2001 to 2004.

“I feel I have come home to complete my career,” said Starr. “I’m excited and feel that all I have done in my nursing career had led to this appointment. I started my career with Gardner-Webb and will now finish my career here.”

Starr, who lives in Crouse, N.C., recently served as the dean of health education within the David Belk Cannon Health Education Institute at Gaston College, located in Dallas, N.C. Starr replaces Dr. Rebecca Beck-Little, who recently retired as dean. Beck-Little and her colleagues helped the program achieve tremendous growth since her appointment in 2006.

“The addition of the RN-BSN, generic BSN, MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner, and the DNP programs means that Gardner-Webb offers a full range of educational opportunities where graduates are qualified to deliver care in all types of healthcare settings and even educate future members of the nursing profession,” said Starr.

Starr now begins the task of maintaining the quality of the current program while focusing on the continuous changing healthcare landscape.

Starr said, “The changing healthcare delivery system will demand that we prepare graduates to deliver autonomous care at the highest level of their scope of practice to a diverse population. When they come here, they will find mentors who emphasize the science of nursing and promote application of the art of nursing within a Christian environment, which will enhance their experience.”

Starr also envisions collaborations between the School of Nursing and other GWU programs such as the Physician Assistant program and the School of Divinity to promote holistic care for patients.

Starr’s extensive education and degrees, includes a baccalaureate and PhD from UNC Chapel Hill, an associate degree in nursing from Gardner-Webb, and a master’s in nursing education from UNC Greensboro.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience within a Christian environment.