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Office of University Communications

June 21, 2013

Dr. Marty Hemric Serving Wilkes County Chosen By Colleagues

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University alumnus Dr. Marty Hemric was recently named superintendent of the year for his region by the Northwestern Regional Education Service Alliance (RESA) in North Carolina. Hemric serves as superintendent for Wilkes County Schools and has been in that role since Jan. 2012.

The Northwestern RESA is made up of 13 school systems in their region of North Carolina, including Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, and Hickory, as well as the N.C. School for the Deaf. The superintendents of those systems are responsible for selecting a colleague for this prestigious annual award. Candidates are judged on things such as creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students, strength in personal and organizational communication, participation in local community activities, and understanding regional, national, and international issues. Hemric is in the running to become one of three finalists for the A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year that will be announced during a conference in November.

“It’s a true honor,” said Hemric. “Being recognized for district achievement, for my leadership in learning, professionalism, and community involvement is a tribute to the fine people we have in place in Wilkes County. I share this honor with all the students, staff, boards, and communities where I have served, and continue to serve.”

Hemric has a long educational relationship with Gardner-Webb, which has helped advance his career. Through GWU, he has earned three degrees; a BS in Physical Education, a master’s in Education and Executive Leadership Studies, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership.

“The collaborative approach that Gardner-Webb has in place is a practical way to learn from others,” Hemrick stated. “That not only includes faculty, but also fellow students in the same profession. I learned a lot from them all and consider Dr. Doug Eury a big influence.” Eury serves as dean for the GWU School of Education, as well as a professor.

Hemric has chaired the Superintendents Council for the northwestern region, represented the region in meetings with other leaders from across the state, and played a leadership role in such educational initiatives as Race to the Top (RttT). RttT is a competitive federal grant program initiated by the Dept. of Education to promote innovation and reform in K-12

education. Twelve states, including North Carolina, have won \$400 million each in grant funding over the last two years. Prior to his position in Wilkes, Hemric was superintendent for the Watauga (N.C.) County School System for three years.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 55 major and minor programs of specialized study, a comprehensive academic experience grounded in a Christian environment of service, leadership and intellectual freedom.