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Freeman Scholarship Fund Provides Support For Local Students to Enter College

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Office of University Communications

May 16, 2013

Annual Announcement Set for May 21 at Cleveland County Chamber

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The dream of leaving high school to enter college is about to become reality for nine local students thanks to the Joseph B. Freeman Jr. Educational Fund. Next week Gardner-Webb University will announce the names of those Cleveland County high school seniors who will receive these financial scholarships. The event takes place outside of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, located in uptown Shelby, N.C., on Tuesday, May 21 at 10 a.m.

Established in 1991 by area business leaders, the Freeman Fund was named for the late Joseph B. Freeman, who was head of the Interstate Johnson Lane office in Shelby. Throughout his life, Freeman was a visible supporter of educational pursuits in Cleveland County. The fund provides scholarship assistance to Cleveland County high school students. The intent is to seek out students who qualify academically for college but whose unique situations might otherwise prevent them from attending.

Each recipient of the Freeman Fund was evaluated by his or her academic achievements, extracurricular activities, personal influences, and motivation, despite financial need. A committee of local business leaders and Gardner-Webb officials awards the scholarships after an evaluation process examines all candidates. The scholarship fund was established when several local business leaders recognized a need to assist students who excelled in these areas.

Since the scholarship's inception, a Freeman recipient has enrolled each year at Gardner-Webb University. This year, at least three recipients plan to attend GWU.

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).

ATTENTION MEDIA MEMBERS: *You are invited to attend this special presentation when we announce and honor this year's Freeman Fund recipients. Freeman Fund administrators, as well as representatives from Gardner-Webb University, will be on hand*

with the recipients to answer questions, provide interviews or be available for photos. The names of the local students and more details will be available at the May 21 event.

The announcement will take place in front of the Chamber's main entrance unless inclement weather forces the event to be moved inside the building.