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Gardner-Webb's Godbold School of Business Adds New Graduate Studies Program

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Office of University Communications

March 21, 2013

Master of Wealth & Trust Management Degree to Begin This Fall at GWU's Charlotte Campus

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University's Godbold School of Business is thrilled to announce that a Master of Wealth and Trust Management degree will begin this fall exclusively at the Charlotte, N.C. satellite location.

The Master of Wealth and Trust Management degree is designed to prepare students for careers in trust management, financial planning, private equity, investment management, securities and financial regulation, risk management, and other sectors within the financial industry.

“The program was created for students who desire to increase their credentials as a pathway to enter the wealth and trust management fields, and for those individuals who wish to advance their current careers within the financial industry,” said Dr. William Little, assistant professor of business and coordinator of the program at GWU.

The 36-hour curriculum model will be consistent with the fields of study required under the CFP (Certified Financial Planner) Certification Examination and will be offered during evening classes during the fall and spring semesters, while summer courses will be offered online, enabling students to finish within two years without taking more than two courses per term.

“Once word got out about the degree, a potential student contacted me asking what the demand was like in this particular market. I told them the potential for employment in Charlotte was significant in the area of wealth and trust management and to keep in mind that Charlotte was second in the nation to New York City in the banking and financial industry,” said Little. He referenced a recent “State of the State” address, in which North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory emphasized the importance of equipping individuals with the skill sets most demanded by North Carolina employers. “Gardner-Webb has the opportunity to further position itself as a leader both in Charlotte and in the financial services industry by providing employees who are qualified and have obtained proper credentials,” Little shared.

Plans for the program include establishing a dedicated cutting edge financial laboratory that can simulate a real-world trading/portfolio management environment. The laboratory's range of technology would offer real-time market data, including global securities, analyst

commentaries, and financial ratios information that would help students learn to follow and interpret the market-moving events that investment managers and professional traders use to make critical decisions.

The Godbold School of Business is accepting applications for the master's degree program at this time. Those interested should contact Heather Bridges, GWU director of Admissions for the Graduate School of Business, at 704-406-4489 or hbridges@gardner-webb.edu. GWU's campus in Charlotte is conveniently located near Charlotte's downtown financial district and is central to the greater Charlotte/Mecklenburg County region.

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).