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Office of University Communications

November 19, 2012

Philosophical Piece on Community Gardening Wins People's Pick Award

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. –Two Gardner-Webb University seniors were recently honored with a prestigious award at a statewide documentary film competition. Jessica Hibbard and Rebekah Rausch won the People's Pick award at the Citizenship, Service, Networking and Partnership's (CSNAP) conference for their submission "Growth: A Story of Community and Gardening."

The competition is sponsored each year by North Carolina Campus Compact. The People's Pick award was chosen by students attending the conference at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

One of 10 projects submitted to the competition, the film tells the story of Gardner-Webb softball player, Pressley Wesson. Wesson suffered an injury that led her to spend time on a community gardening project. "We felt that Pressley's story was a true representation of our campus and the way that people are developing at GWU," Hibbard said.

Hibbard and Rausch were surprised when they learned they had won the People's Pick award. "For both of us, it was our first time creating a project of that length," Rausch said. "We had to film and edit all in one week, in addition to the school work we already had." In the end, it came down to spending long hours in the editing lab together until 5 a.m. in order for the two to make the deadline.

By winning the People's Pick award, Hibbard and Rausch both believe that it will give their resumes a competitive edge after graduation. "Winning this award shows the value of our work, our ability to work as team, and also expands the marketability with the type of work we can do," Hibbard said.

Since 2002, the Compact has hosted conferences where student leaders learn and share strategies to address community issues. Over 125 students from 18 campuses attended the 2012 conference.



Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/cgakdEgpf24