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Office of University Communications

August 31, 2012

Gardner-Webb and Communities In Schools Unique Partnership Brings Honor to Dr. Doug Eury

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University and Communities In Schools (CIS) of Cleveland County, N.C., continues a long partnership that has proven to be instrumental in helping youth from elementary to high school age perform better in the classroom. One of the leaders in this cause has been Dr. Doug Eury, whose efforts were recently recognized after being named a 2012 H. Glenn Williams Power of One Award recipient.

Eury, dean of the School of Education and director of the Center for Innovative Leadership Development at GWU, was one of only two winners for the Williams award that is given each year by CIS of North Carolina. This prestigious award is given to individuals who have made a difference in the lives of children, and have demonstrated contributions of time and/or resources to the educational efforts of children in the state of North Carolina.

“Gardner-Webb University and its Center for Innovative Leadership Development helps us achieve our mission,” said CIS of Cleveland County Director, Phillis White. “This makes us a better organization and community partner.”

Over the past year, the GWU-Communities In Schools partnership has resulted in a number of events that have benefited both the internal and external participants. (1) Gardner-Webb hosted the regional CIS affiliates participating in a capacity building project. (2) The GWU School of Education and Center for Innovative Leadership Development and CIS provided program evaluation, curriculum, capacity building, and professional development for doctoral students. (3) GWU students partnered with CIS in an AmeriCorps project through Campus Compact. Campus Compact member universities like GWU were provided hands on volunteer experience and the opportunity to earn scholarship support for their education. Because of their willingness, eight GWU students worked as mentors and assistants in a middle school after-school program.

“Our focus at the Center is to aid organizations in their pursuit of being best in class. To transform or re-invent an organization in order to take it to the next level,” said Eury.

Communities In Schools is a national non-profit, with local affiliates across the nation. The Cleveland County affiliate provides intensive services for youth at 16 schools. Services range from after-school academic support, to teen pregnancy educational support, to graduation coaches. Their overall mission is to surround students with a community of support that empowers them to stay in school and achieve in life. More information is available at 704-480-5569.

The Center for Innovative Leadership Development aims to enhance organizational performance for groups and businesses. They support the needs of the immediate community and region with significant programs aimed at spiritual, economic, and academic growth. More information is available at 704-406-4402.