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Gardner-Webb's Leadership Conference Adds Executive Track to Program Lineup

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Office of University Communications

July 24, 2012

Upcoming Event Partners Schools of Education and School of Business

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – This year's theme for the third annual Summer Leadership Conference, titled "Embracing and Institutionalizing Reform: Bringing Out the Change Agent in Each of Us," features distinguished keynote speakers and the addition of an executive track. Taking place in the new Tucker Student Center on July 30-31, the conference is sponsored by the School of Education's Center for Innovative Leadership Development (CILD) and the Godbold School of Business Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship (CEE).

The conference will focus on creating intentional change as it relates to school cultures, curriculum design, 21st century skills, adopting innovative programs, and the role of the executive in leading change within an organization. There will be four main topics presented at the event: curriculum transformation, administrative focus, executive leadership, and research presentations. Dean of the GWU School of Education and an organizer for the conference, Dr. Doug Eury, said, "We are really excited about our partnership with Dr. Anthony Negbenbor (dean of the GWU Godbold School of Business) and the School of Business when it comes to this year's conference."

Keynote speakers for the event are Dr. Mitchell (Mick) Zais and Dr. Don Martin. Zais serves as the South Carolina state superintendent of education. He is a former president of Newberry (S.C.) College and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Zais has been in the forefront of transforming organizations and building high performance teams. Martin is superintendent for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (N.C.) Schools. He was a recent recipient of the State Superintendent of the Year Award in North Carolina.

"We are delighted to announce that we have added an executive track to this year's conference," added Eury. "There will be a number of key executives across industry segments that will be speaking on various topics." Executives include John Young, group vice president of the Western Division for the Carolinas Healthcare System and former president of Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby, N.C.; and Billy C. Henry, Jr., chairman and CEO of Lucky Country, Inc., a manufacturer of licorice based in Lincolnton, N.C. The speakers will cover topics including strategic planning, profit (is not a dirty word), and quality assurance.

More information about the conference, including final registration with electronic registration capability is available online at gardner-webb.edu/leadership-conference.

The Center for Innovative Leadership Development is intended to serve both as a catalyst for institution cultural transformation aimed at enhanced organizational performance as well as establishing the framework for centers of excellence within the organization. They support the needs of the immediate community and region with vital significant programs aimed at spiritual, economic, and academic growth. More information is available at 704-406-4402.

The Godbold School of Business provides students with a unique learning environment where a high standard of excellence embraces integrity as much as knowledge and skills. They seek to educate men and women to compete effectively in tomorrow's business world and become today's leaders. More information is available at 704-406-3229.



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