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April 23, 2012

Gingrich will throw out ceremonial first pitch at GWU baseball game

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.— GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich will throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Gardner-Webb University baseball game against North Carolina A&T on Wednesday, April 25 at 2:45 p.m. at John Henry Moss Stadium.



The event is one of several Cleveland County stops for Gingrich on Wednesday, including lunch with the Kings Mountain GOP at the Cherokee Street Tavern in Kings Mountain, and a visit to Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy in Mooresboro.

University officials say the event does not represent the University's endorsement of Gingrich's candidacy. "In order to protect our individuals' academic and intellectual freedom, Gardner-Webb does not privilege or endorse any particular political perspective, candidate or party," said University spokesperson Noel T. Manning, II.

"Mr. Gingrich's people called us and asked if they could stop by, and we agreed. It's a rare occasion that you have a chance to welcome a current presidential candidate to your campus. When given an opportunity like that, whether the candidate is a Republican or Democrat really doesn't factor into our consideration," Manning said. "We would have done the same for President Obama, Mr. Romney, or any number of other presidential candidates, too."

Gingrich is a former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Georgia from 1979-1999. In 1995, he was named Time Magazine's "Man of the Year." Before being elected to the House, Gingrich taught history and geography at the University of West Georgia. He is the author of 23 books, including 13 New York Times bestsellers.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University is home to over 4,300 students from 37 states and 21 foreign countries.

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