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Gardner-Webb to Host Site Review for DNP Program Accreditation

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Office of University Communications

January 5, 2012

Community Invited to Share Impressions and Experiences with Accrediting Visit Team

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.— The Gardner-Webb University School of Nursing will host a site review for the initial accreditation of its Clinical Doctorate Nursing Program (DNP) on Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 9-10 AM in the McCullough Grindstaff Conference Room, located inside Hamrick Hall. The community is invited to enjoy light refreshments and share their experiences with Gardner-Webb's nursing programs and its graduates.

The DNP Program is seeking accreditation through the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC), which has accredited each of the School's other professional nursing programs.

For those unable to attend the site review discussion, the NLNAC welcomes written comments, which should be submitted directly to Dr. Sharon Tanner, Executive Director, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, or by email to sjtanner@nlnac.org. Written comments should arrive at NLNAC by Feb. 7.

Gardner-Webb is one of only two schools in N.C. to offer the DNP, having accepted its first students in the summer of 2010. The Program now has 24 students, including nurse practitioners, educators, administrators, and even a nurse anesthetist. "This accreditation is extremely important for Gardner-Webb," said the School's Dean Dr. Susie Beck-Little. "It is not a requirement for our program that we achieve national accreditation, but it's an expectation we have set for ourselves."

In addition to being a prestigious accomplishment, Beck-Little said the accreditation process holds the School accountable for pursuing excellence and for self-evaluation. "Accreditation is an arduous process, but it's a great learning experience for us. We take the NLNAC's suggestions and criticisms very seriously, because we are constantly evaluating and assessing how we can be better. You should never start a program and then leave it alone. We strive to constantly be better for this University and, most important, for our students."

In the last six years, GWU's School of Nursing has established itself as one of the most comprehensive nursing programs in the state, adding a traditional four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program along with the DNP program and tripling its overall enrollment. Beck-Little said other new programs are also in the planning stages. More information about the School of Nursing is available at gardner-webb.edu.

Gardner-Webb University seeks a higher ground in higher education – one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, balances conviction with compassion, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.