



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY

Inviting Applications and Nominations for

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Gardner-Webb University seeks an experienced and innovative academic leader to serve as **Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**. The Provost must understand and demonstrate a clear commitment to the mission and values of a growth-oriented, private Christian university. Reporting directly to the President, the Provost will work effectively with faculty and staff to strengthen and expand Gardner-Webb's traditions of instructional excellence.



VISIT GARDNER-WEBB.EDU TO LEARN MORE.



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Gardner-Webb University (GWU) is a private, coeducational, residential institution with a strong emphasis on the Liberal Arts. It is located in the North Carolina foothills in Boiling Springs.

Gardner-Webb has experienced remarkable growth, perseverance, and maturity over its 116-year history. From a movement initiated by the Kings Mountain Baptist Association in 1903, and later joined by the Sandy Run Baptist Association, the University was chartered in 1905 as Boiling Springs High School, an institution “where the young . . . could have the best possible educational advantages under distinctive Christian influence.”

In 1928, responding to changing educational needs, the institution was transformed into the Boiling Springs Junior College. In 1942, the name of the institution changed to Gardner-Webb College to honor Governor O. Max Gardner and his wife, Fay

Webb Gardner, and their families. Governor Gardner devoted time, energy, and wealth to strengthening the college. In 1971, it became a fully accredited senior college, with a Master of Arts in Education degree first offered in 1980. The institution officially became known as Gardner-Webb University in 1993.

Today, GWU is a flourishing national institution with six professional schools, 14 academic departments, more than 80 undergraduate and graduate majors, and a highly qualified faculty on a beautiful 225-acre campus. In addition to growing residential undergraduate programs, Gardner-Webb has an extensive offering of online degree completion programs for undergraduates as well as an impressive array of graduate degrees (both online and on-campus) at the master’s and doctoral levels.

Historically, the University has played significant roles in teacher education and ministerial preparation for church-related vocations. GWU also touts

strengths in nursing, business, fine arts, and natural sciences. The University holds firm to its commitment to Christian principles and values as the best foundations for developing human personality and building community.

Nationally recognized for its character-building programs, Gardner-Webb challenges students to ignite their passions, purposes, and professions within an environment that challenges the mind, heart, and soul.

THE OPPORTUNITY

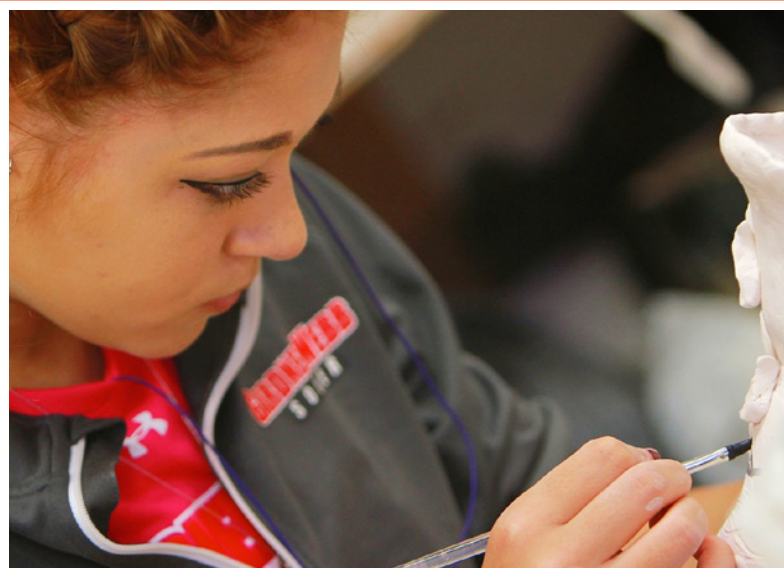
The Provost must understand and demonstrate a clear commitment to the mission and values of a growth-oriented private Christian university. The Provost shall play a significant role in implementing GWU's Strategic Plan and shall be a key advisor to the President on the quality of degree programs and academic support services. The successful candidate will emphasize and foster a culture of continuous improvement, will understand how to maximize efficiency without compromising excellence, and will bring energy and expertise to the imperatives of student recruitment, retention, and timely graduation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications include an earned doctorate or terminal degree from a regionally accredited university, with preference for degree in an academic discipline offered by the University with credentials appropriate for appointment as a tenured, full Professor. A significant record of successful leadership experience as a senior university administrator, experience managing academic budgets, and demonstrated effectiveness in the management of personnel are essential for consideration. Because Gardner-Webb aspires to increase faculty and staff success in the pursuit of extramural grants, a preferred qualification will be experience with state, federal, and/or private awards.

THE PROVOST WILL:

- Serve on the President's leadership cabinet.
- Provide leadership in the areas of new program development and existing program review.
- Provide leadership to reshape and reinvigorate the University's efforts to improve student retention rates.



- Provide leadership in the scheduling of academic courses, sharpening workload expectations, and rationalizing compensation processes.
- Provide recommendations to the President on promotion and tenure cases.
- Provide recommendations to the President on the hiring and renewal of faculty and staff.
- Supervise academic deans, directors, and department chairs across the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, and School of Divinity.
- Coordinate the University's multiple accreditation reviews and renewals.
- Provide leadership, supervision, and direction to Dover Library, Registrar's Office, and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.
- Support innovative advances in pedagogy, instructional technology, and course design to meet the needs of diverse learners.
- Foster collaboration within and between University departments and administration that lead to student success.
- Maintain integrity of annual faculty evaluation process.
- Work collaboratively with the Division of Student Development to improve on metrics of student retention and success.
- Work collaboratively with the Athletics Department to support the academic success of approximately 600 student-athletes participating in 22 Division I sports.
- Support and promote faculty research and other scholarly efforts.
- Serve as liaison to the Education Affairs Committee of GWU's Board of Trustees.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Gardner-Webb University is to prepare graduates for leadership and service in their professional careers and in their personal lives. Rigorous and innovative degree programs, combined with distinctive experiential learning opportunities, shape students into thinkers, doers, and world-changers. Forged within a supportive and diverse Christian community, our students emerge ready to impact their chosen professions, equipped with the skills to advance the frontiers of knowledge, and inspired to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others.





DR. WILLIAM M. DOWNS PRESIDENT

Dr. Downs is Gardner-Webb University's 13th President and began his term on July 1, 2019.

A Raleigh native, Dr. Downs earned his BA in Political Science (with a minor in Journalism) from North Carolina State University in 1988, and he holds MA (1990) and PhD (1994) degrees in Political Science from Emory University. Dr. Downs grew up in an academic family, with both parents on the faculty at NCSU.

Prior to his appointment at Gardner-Webb, Dr. Downs was Dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Political Science, and W. Keats Sparrow Distinguished Chair in the Liberal Arts at East Carolina University. As Dean, Dr. Downs had responsibility for ECU's largest and most diverse academic college, with 16 standalone departments, 17 interdisciplinary programs, 6,500 majors at undergraduate and graduate levels, and more than 530 faculty and staff. During his five years in Greenville, Dr. Downs served as president of ECU's chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society and as a member of the executive board for A Time for Science.

Dr. Downs' research and teaching expertise lies at the intersection of comparative politics and international relations. His work addresses four interconnected themes: 1) political extremism and the politics of rejection, 2) elections and electoral behavior, 3) decentralization, regionalism, and the politics of place, and 4) legislative institutions. His books have been published by Ohio State University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, and Epikentro. Additional work has appeared in such journals as *Parliamentary Affairs*, *Local Government Studies*, *Electoral Studies*, *West European Politics*, *Government and Opposition*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, *Regional and Federal Studies*, and *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*. His study of "Sub-National Legislatures" appears in *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*. Dr. Downs' research in political science led to funded partnerships with faculty at Queens University, Belfast (Northern Ireland), the University of Strasbourg (France), and the University of Pretoria (South Africa).

Dr. Downs has been a research fellow at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, a graduate research associate working on democratization movements at the Carter Center's African Governance Program, and a Fulbright dissertation researcher in Belgium. His work also has been supported by the Belgian-American Educational Foundation. As an undergraduate student, Dr. Downs served as an intern in the North Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office and also studied abroad in the United Kingdom. His first post-doctoral positions were on the faculties of two universities in Denmark—Odense University (now the University of Southern Denmark) and Aarhus University. He also held a one-year post as Visiting Assistant Professor at Emory University. During his 17 years as a Political Science faculty member at Georgia State University, Dr. Downs held several leadership roles, including Area Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences, Chair of the Department in Political Science, and Director of Graduate Studies in Political Science.



Gardner-Webb University does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in employment for any of its programs and activities.



Boiling Springs, North Carolina

Boiling Springs is a small North Carolina town with a population of 4,565 in Cleveland County, and is one of the best places to live in North Carolina. Living in Boiling Springs offers residents a sparse suburban feel and most residents own their homes. The public schools in Boiling Springs are highly rated.

The quaint streets of downtown are a charming setting of boutiques, restaurants, coffee shops, and stores. Just outside of town is the Broad River and Broad River Greenway where day hikes and tubing are

a must. With an overall cost of living less than the U.S. average, Boiling Springs' quiet streets make it a great place to live.

If big city adventure comes calling, Boiling Springs is perfectly situated. Within an hour or less of driving, you can easily be cheering with the crowds in Charlotte's bustling uptown sports scene, strolling through Greenville's destination downtown with its award-winning parks, restaurants, and arts scene, or exploring the charm of Asheville.

APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS

Confidential inquiries are welcomed, and nominations are invited.

Applications

- 1) Application packet must include:
 - a) A letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and qualifications of the position
 - b) Current curriculum vitae *or* resume
 - c) At least four references with full contact information including e-mails (References will not be contacted without consent from applicant.)

- 2) Submit application packet (preferably as PDFs) to:

Gardner-Webb-Provost@myersmcrac.com

Additional information will be requested upon receipt of application.

Review of applications begins immediately. For best consideration, submit applications by **November 3, 2021**. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Nominations

Submit nominations to:

Gardner-Webb-Provost-nominate@myersmcrac.com

with complete contact and e-mail information for the individual being nominated.

Kenny Daugherty, President of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting**, will be assisting Gardner-Webb University in this search.

