Gardner-Webb University

by James I. Martin Sr., 2006

The 1920s witnessed the expansion of public high schools in North Carolina, leading to declining enrollments at sectarian institutions such as Boiling Springs. In response, Boiling Springs High School, along with its sister institutions at Mars Hill and Buies Creek, reorganized as a junior college. The generosity of former North Carolina governor Max Gardner and his wife Faye Webb Gardner led Boiling Springs to change its name to Gardner-Webb Junior College in 1942. In 1947 the North Carolina Baptist Convention began supporting Gardner-Webb. In 1969 the junior college became Gardner-Webb College, and the first four-year class graduated in 1971.

Gardner-Webb's first graduate program, in education, was initiated in 1981. In the 1980s Gardner-Webb also initiated an international study abroad program with Japan's Dohto University. To the college's graduate education program were added a master of business administration curriculum and a divinity school. In 1993 Gardner-Webb College became Gardner-Webb University. By the early 2000s Gardner-Webb had more than 3,200 students taught by approximately 135 faculty members. The university offers dual degree programs in engineering with Auburn University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. It inaugurated its first doctoral program, a Doctor of Ministry, in 2001.

References:

Additional Resources:
Gardner-Webb University: http://www.gardner-webb.edu

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