

August 11, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CROWDER COLLEGE FOUNDATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Neosho, MO – The Crowder College Foundation held its annual [membership](#) meeting Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> to review organizational activity for the prior year and to recognize Mary Ellen Sims as the Distinguished Service Award recipient. The Foundation selected Mary Ellen Sims to receive the Distinguished Service Award. During her term on the Foundation Board Mrs. Sims played a vital role in the Foundation’s record-breaking accomplishments, raising money for scholarships, capital projects, and endowments. Peggy Payne, Foundation Board member, presented the award and noted Mrs. Sims’ leadership ability and her vision in pursuit of excellence for the Foundation. “Her devotion to the Foundation and Crowder College goes above and beyond just service—it is rightly termed distinguished,” stated Mrs. Payne.

Mrs. Sims served on the Board for eight years and as President of the Foundation from 2004-2009 recording many accomplishments along the way including raising over 5 million dollars and providing nearly \$500,000 in student scholarships. Mrs. Sims continues to be a key figure in the Festival of Wreaths and has helped to increase the event’s income from \$13,000 to \$42,000.

The Foundation’s financial report indicated a fiscal year end fund balance of just over \$4M. Annual donations to the Foundation exceeded \$800,000 and over \$ 250,000 were received for scholarships and other Crowder College Projects.

The Foundation also installed new officers (Jim Armstrong, President; Kevin Wilson, Newton County Vice President; Bob Brumley, McDonald County Vice President; and Kelly Walters, Treasurer). Deanna McClelland welcomed newly elected members to the Board (Dallas Kelly, Newton County and Kim Ramsay, McDonald County). New President, Jim Armstrong thanked the outgoing Board members, Deanna McClelland, Will Cook, and Eloise Ragland, for their years of service. Foundation Board members may only consecutively serve two 4-year terms.

###

Please feel free to contact the Crowder College Foundation Office at (417)455-5646 or e-mail: [foundation@crowder.edu](mailto:foundation@crowder.edu)

Cindy Brown  
Director of Public Information  
Crowder College  
phone (417)455-5540  
e-mail: [cindybrown@crowder.edu](mailto:cindybrown@crowder.edu)

