

September 16, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Public Information
Crowder College

LOCAL SCHOLAR SELECTED TO DESIGN ROBOTIC ROVERS

Neosho, Mo – Crowder College Student Andrew Ferrell has been selected to travel to NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. To develop a prototype vehicle to roam Mars. Ferrell will participate in the three-day experience through the National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program.

Alongside his peers, Ferrell will establish a team and form a fictitious company pursuing Mars exploration. The team will create a company infrastructure to design and develop a rover. The experience includes a tour of NASA facilities and briefings from agency scientists and engineers. Ferrell is among 48 students from 25 states who will visit Marshall November 8-10.

“Community colleges are a tremendous source of talented problem solvers and will help feed skilled scientists and engineers into the nation’s workforce,” said Susan White, Director of Education at Johnson Space Center in Houston, where the program is coordinated. “This program helps inspire students to pursue STEM careers in the future.”

Ferrell and other participants were selected on web-based assignments during the school year centered on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) content.

NCAS is based on the Texas Aerospace Scholars program, originally created in partnership with NASA and the educational community in Texas. The program is designed to encourage community and junior college students to enter careers in science and engineering and ultimately join the nation’s highly technical workforce.

For a complete list of the students, their states and the community colleges they represent, visit: <http://go.usa.gov/OTX>

For more information about NASA’s education programs, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/education>

Ferrell is working on an Associate of Arts degree with an emphasis in Physics. At this time, he intends to pursue coursework leading to a career in Astronomy. Dr. Herb Schade, VP of Academic Affairs, is his academic advisor and Physics instructor. “Andrew is a good worker and an excellent student. I’m very impressed with the work he did in order to be selected for the program.

###

Please feel free to contact my office if you have additional information.

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