

Congratulations!

Jim Dawson Receives 2014 Distinguished Service Award



Jim Dawson, at the May 7, 2013, news conference announcing the Dawson's gift.

Crowder College is pleased to name Jim Dawson, Webb City businessman and lifelong resident, the 2014 Distinguished Service Award recipient. Jim has always valued the importance of education. He and his late wife, Treva, were both first generation college graduates. So when the opportunity to support the Crowder College Webb City campus became available, Jim and Treva didn't hesitate. The Dawsons pledged a \$300,000 donation along with a \$600,000 challenge gift as a way to encourage others to join them in supporting the college. The couple wanted to help ensure that the people of Webb City—the community they loved—had access to an affordable education.

Following graduation from Webb City High School, Jim began his college career at the former Joplin Junior College in 1963. It was there that he met his beloved Treva. He remembers well how both of them struggled to come up with enough money to pay their

tuition each semester. After graduating from junior college, Jim and Treva married on November 27, 1964. They continued their educations at Pittsburg State University where Treva earned a bachelor's degree in education and Jim received a master's in counseling and psychology. Jim served as an instructor at PSU for seven months before the Army drafted him in 1968.

After two years of military service, Jim returned to the business field and worked alongside his father in a family-owned business in the Webb City area. This would be the first of three highly successful business ventures Jim pursued. Treva enjoyed a long career as an elementary teacher. Together, they raised three sons: Brendan, Jonathan, and Nathan.

Crowder College publicly announced the Dawson's generous gift on May 7, 2013, just three weeks prior to Treva's unexpected and sudden passing. "Treva devoted her life to children and teaching. She was known in the community for her passion for education. Our gift to Crowder holds a much more significant meaning for our family now. It would thrill her to know that it has inspired other donors to follow suit and lend their support," noted Jim. "We did not give to receive recognition or credit. We gave for one reason—to make a difference and give others the same opportunity we had. She would love knowing we made a difference."