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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

NEOSHO, MO – A dedication ceremony of the “Rocketdyne Mural” will be held Thursday, February 28, at 11:30 a.m. in Davidson Hall on the Crowder College campus in Neosho.

The mural was painted by former Rocketdyne employee, Larry Sanchez in 1963. Sanchez is also responsible for the tiled mural on the South side of Mills Park Centre building near Big Spring Park.

The Rocketdyne plant was heavily involved building engines for rockets that carried Americans into space. The mural depicts his interpretation of what space would look like in the future.

He was a technical artist for Rocketdyne who moved to Neosho from Boston, MA.

The Newton County Tourism Committee along with Premier Turbines (formerly Rocketdyne) decided the mural needed to be more visible to the community. It had been on display in their employee cafeteria where Sanchez originally painted it. The group worked with administration from Crowder College to find a location that would be suitable for display. The mural resides on the first floor of Davidson Hall outside science labs and classrooms.

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Newton County Tourism committee members, Steve Roark and Allen Bishop, Crowder Art Instructor and Muralist, will be available to say a few words at the dedication. The Tourism Committee and the city of Neosho partnered to make a “Walking Tours of Downtown Neosho Murals” brochure. They will also be available. For more information please feel free to contact my office.

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