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MAY 8, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

CROWDER COLLEGE AND LIBERAL HIGH TO AWARD DIPLOMAS

NEOSHO, MO – Graduating Senior Whitlea Ulrich will be receiving two diplomas at the Liberal High School graduation. Her drive and dedication has helped to achieve her Associate of Arts from Crowder College while still in high school. May 12 at 3:00 pm will mark Crowder's 1st high school/associates graduate.

Ulrich was able to accomplish this on her own by enrolling in dual credit classes offered at Liberal through Crowder as well as taking online and summer classes. She admits it had its challenges, but her desire to be the first person in her family to graduate from college motivated her. She credits her parents and high school counselor, Shanda Shaw, along with Dual Credit Coordinator at Crowder College, Melissa Smith, for encouraging her along the way. "Balancing school work, activities, involvement and other things has had its challenges. I have given up some of my social life in order to maintain a high grade point average. However, I make it a priority to still spend time with family and friends, play softball, and be involved in my high school's FCA, FBLA, Yearbook, Student Council, and other extracurricular activities." stated Ulrich.

Ultimately, Ulrich's plans are to become a pharmacist. This is a career she has wanted to pursue for some time. Completing two years of college prior to high school graduation means she has six years left as opposed to the eight years it takes to obtain this degree. She plans to attend Pittsburg State in the fall and Pharmacy school in August 2015. Her drive and belief that you can do anything you set your heart to do have made this possible.

Crowder College offers dual credit classes at high schools throughout its 9 county service district. Opportunities for students to complete their associate of arts degree at high school graduation are available through area high schools, including online and summer classes. Dual credit classes are provided at a lower tuition rate and often offer books at little or no charge to the high school students. For more information on Dual Credit at Crowder please contact Melissa Smith at 417-455-5627.

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Dr. Glenn Coltharp, VP of Academic Affairs, will be awarding Ms. Ulrich her Crowder College diploma at the Liberal High School graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 12, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Cindy Brown

Director of Public Information

Crowder College

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