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Crowder Hosts Educators from Thailand

Neosho, MO – Crowder College hosted four administrators from Phranakhon Rajabhat University in Bangkok, Thailand, this week to learn about programs that might compliment the offerings of the university. The Thai educators had been in St. Louis for the previous two weeks receiving training in Student Support services at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. They extended their stay to visit Crowder because of the Thai university's specific interest in programs that support economic and environmental sustainability. Interim President Dr. Kent Farnsworth, who has worked with the Thai Ministry of Education since 2002 on creation of a community college system in the country, extended the invitation to the group to visit the Neosho college while in Missouri.

"I knew they would have a particular interest in what we are doing in water and wastewater technology, alternative energy and biofuel development, emergency medical training, and advanced manufacturing," Farnsworth said. "The new community colleges in the country offer basic technical training, but more advanced training comes through these universities," he added.

Each of the program areas visited by the Thai leaders is offered partly through online instruction and partly through a residential training component during which students become familiar with the equipment, lab processes and site management issues related to the field. This combination of distance learning and on-campus experience made these programs particularly interesting to the international educators and their students.

Crowder College's Paramedic program will shortly be hosting a group of students from Ireland who are coming to Neosho to complete the clinical portion of their training, and the college hopes to expand international interest in a number of its programs.

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Our Thai guests along with Kristin Spencer, Paramedic Program Director (3rd from right) and Kirk Wattman, EMS Online Instructor/Coordinator (far right).

Feel free to contact my office if you have additional questions.

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