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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CROWDER FOUNDATION NAMES OUTSTANDING ALUM

NEOSHO, MO – The Crowder College Foundation named Marla Looper the 2013 Outstanding Alumni at the annual Scholarship banquet, October 14 in the Bob Sneller Gymnasium.

Looper, a standout pitcher for the Lady 'Riders from 90-92 is entering her fourth season as the head coach for the University of Iowa Softball program.

While at Crowder she was selected as a National Junior College All-American as a freshman and sophomore and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Tournament's most valuable player during her sophomore season. Looper helped Crowder to a runner-up finish in the NJCAA Tournament in both 1991 and 1992. Looper was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2006.

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized as the Outstanding Alum this year. My two years at Crowder were very pivotal in my personal life and ultimately my career. I am thankful for the opportunity to be back on the campus and thankful for the opportunity I was given as a young student-athlete to pursue my dreams," commented Looper.

Millie Gilion, Crowder Athletic Director and Looper's former coach stated, "Marla's softball career at Crowder was phenomenal and speaks for itself. She was instrumental in putting our softball program back on the map nationally. Marla is an outstanding person and is well deserving of this prestigious honor."

After graduating from Crowder Looper went on to play at Florida State where she graduated in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in nutrition and fitness. She earned All-American honors as a junior and led FSU to the 1993 Women's College World Series and an NCAA Tournament appearance in 1994. Looper earned NCAA Regional All-Tournament honors and All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors both seasons at FSU. In 2003, she was named one of the ACC's Top 50 softball players in conference history.

Looper's coaching career includes the Iowa State pitcher/catcher coach (1995-96), University of Kansas Assistant Coach (1996-99), and University of Texas (1999-2010). During this time she mentored softball great Cat Osterman to the USA National Player of the Year Award in 2003, 2005 and 2006. Texas' pitching staff led the nation in earned run average in three of Looper's final four years as pitching coach. Her coaching resume' also includes being a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Staff of the Year in 2002-03 and Speedline/NFCA Midwest Regional Coaching Staff of the Year in 2005-06.



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The Crowder College Foundation is honored to award this year's 2013 Outstanding Alum to such an accomplished student-athlete and coach.



Pictured (L-R): Dr. Kent Farnsworth, Interim President; Marla Looper, 2013 Outstanding Alum; Millie Gilion, Athletic Director/former Softball Coach; and Cindy Branscum, Director of Institutional Advancement.

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