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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CROWDER COLLEGE 2014 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

Neosho, MO - Three employees of Crowder College received "Employee of the Year" awards for the 2013-14 year at an end-of-term all staff luncheon on May 16th. There was one employee selected from each employee category: faculty, professional staff, and classified (support) staff. Employees were nominated by their peers and/or students and winners were selected by area Chambers of Commerce.

The **Gold Star award for faculty** went to **Kristy Jones**, Nursing Instructor. Kristy was nominated based upon her dedication to her students, her profession, and her community. This past year, in addition to her teaching responsibilities, she was also the president of the faculty association, worked in conjunction with the nursing staff on national accreditation, and spent numerous hours volunteering in her church and her community. Her nominator commented, "As a nurse her primary focus is caring for others and she exemplifies this passion every day. Her colleagues refer to her as 'The Rock' upon whom they all depend."

The **Professional Staff Employee of the Year** award went to **Heidi Gilligan**. Heidi recently became an instructor in the Teacher Education Division as well as the Teacher Education Division Chair. Heidi was previously the Service Region Coordinator and that is the position for which she was nominated. As the Service Region Coordinator, Heidi oversaw five sites but managed to give each one a personal touch. Her nominator noted that "Heidi has always been patient, encouraging, genuine, and kind. Heidi represents Crowder College well everywhere she goes by making everyone feel welcome, valued, and important."

The **Classified Staff Employee of the Year** award went to **Krystal Morgan**, Office Manager of the Cassville Campus. Upon entering the Administrative Building at the Cassville Campus, Krystal is the person who will greet you with a smile and a pleasant "how may I help you?" Krystal wears many hats in her daily routine and thrives on the challenge of making a positive impact in all that she does. She was nominated by several people, one of whom commented: "She knows every student by name and usually a bit about their life because she takes the time to get to know them and to listen to them. She is compassionate but at the same time, reminds them why they are here. She is a valuable asset for Crowder College."

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Pictured (l-r): Krystal Morgan, Kristy Jones and Heidi Gilligan