



**February 9, 2015**

**For Immediate Release  
Office of Public Information**

### **Crowder Debate Named “Top 2 Year School” at Mega Tournament in St. Louis**

**NEOSHO, MO-** On January 23-25, the team traveled to St. Louis to compete in the “17<sup>th</sup> Annual Gorlok Gala” held on the campus of Webster University. Forty-nine schools spanning 23 states attended the event. Some of Crowder’s more notable competition included the University of Kentucky, Boise State University, and Ithaca College.

In Parliamentary Debate, the team of Tom Younker (Monett) and Kayla Williams (Neosho) went into elimination rounds with a 4-1 record, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> place overall in the Junior Varsity division. The tandem was also named 7<sup>th</sup> Speaker and 3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker respectively. Drew Young (Pierce City) also found success with a 9<sup>th</sup> place Speaker award. In the Novice division, the team of Kyler Bard (Seneca) and Miranda Johnson (Neosho) blazed through preliminary rounds with a stunning 5-0 record, earning them the top seed in elimination rounds. After a 3-0 panel victory in quarterfinals, Bard and Johnson finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with a defeat at the hands of Hillsdale College. In Novice Parliamentary Speaking, Bard was named 6<sup>th</sup> speaker while Johnson earned an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Speaker award.

In Lincoln Douglas Debate, newcomer Katie Knight (Neosho) racked up an impressive 4-2 record in the Novice division, earning her a spot in elimination rounds and a 5<sup>th</sup> place speaker award. Knight advanced all the way to semi-finals and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. In College Public Forum, Johnson again flexed her speaking muscles and finished 8<sup>th</sup> in a very competitive Open division. By the end of the weekend, Crowder College was named Top 2-year program at the Gorlok Gala. “In my five years at Crowder, the debate program has never taken 1<sup>st</sup> at this highly competitive tournament,” commented Jason Edgar, Crowder Debate Instructor. “But the student’s hard work and dedication paid off with a big win.”

The team’s next event is February 13<sup>th</sup> when they compete and host the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities at Crowder College. The tournament serves as the State Championships for intercollegiate Speech and Debate, and is also the national qualifier for the most prestigious Oratory tournament in the country in April. You can follow the team on facebook at “Crowder Debate”.