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**For Immediate Release
Office of Public Information**

Crowder Speech and Debate Team Takes Top Honors

Neosho, MO – The Crowder College Speech and Debate team competed in the Missouri Association of Forensic Activities state tournament over the past weekend at Webster University. Crowder earned the Bill Cue Top Community College award which means Crowder is Missouri's highest ranked Community College. This was a two day competition with 15 other schools.

Logan Johns (Diamond) received a 2nd place ranking in Impromptu Speaking and third place ranking in Dramatic Interpretation and Poetry Reading. Her efforts led to a 3rd place Sweepstakes award in Individual events.

Next, the team will be traveling to Missouri State University to potentially qualify more students for the national tournament in April. Currently, seven entries have already qualified for nationals. Evan Cherryholmes (Joplin) qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking. Phillip Whipkey (Neosho) and Aaron Patrick (Neosho) qualified in Extemporaneous and Impromptu Speaking. Whipkey also qualified in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Patrick qualified in After Dinner Speaking.

Crowder's Speech and Debate team is coached by Kristen Stout. Stout is in her first year at Crowder after coaching at Republic High School the past two years.

For more information on the program contact Stout at: 417.455.5703 or email: KristenStout@Crowder.edu

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Logan Johns with the awards from Webster University. Please feel free to contact Stout or my office if you have additional questions.