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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

**CROWDER COLLEGE EMPLOYEE AWARDS**

**NEOSHO, MO** – Three employees of Crowder College received “Employee of the Year” awards for the 2012-13 year at an end-of-term all staff luncheon on May 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 Katie Strohl, who coordinates the College Orientation and College Connections programs and teaches in it as well. She works with students who struggle academically and her student evaluations are “exemplary” according to her Division Chair. She also created and coordinates the “Service Seed” program which requires all students to do community service. Her nominator commented, “Her commitment to excellence touches every Crowder student as well as impacting the community at large.”

The Professional Staff Employee of the Year award went to Christy Manning, Disability Services Coordinator. She coordinates disability services for students at all campuses and locations and provides a detailed assistance plan for each individual who requests services. Her nominator noted that “so many students (and faculty) rely on her always steady hand, calming voice, approachable manner, and her friendly smile.”

The Classified Staff Employee of the Year award went to Melissa Jennings, Administrative Assistant for the Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Center programs. She works with pre-college students through Talent Search and older individuals who need educational assistance through EOC. She was nominated by several people, one of who commented: “no one else I know can handle two databases, fill out government forms, and do Zumba with 6<sup>th</sup> graders all in one week.”

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Christy Manning, Katie Strohl and Melissa Jennings