



October 28, 2014

**For Immediate Release
Office of Public information**

Crowder Debate Takes Top Honors Again

Siloam Springs, AR - The Crowder Debate program recently traveled to Siloam Springs, AR to participate in the Golden Eagle Invitational at John Brown University. At the end of the tournament, the team had placed 1st in Overall Debate Sweeps. "For the second time in as many tournaments, we were the top debate school over both 2 and 4 year schools," commented Crowder's Speech & Debate Instructor, Jason Edgar. Crowder competed against 13 schools and universities, including Arkansas Tech, Evangel University, and the University of Central Arkansas. Along with taking 1st in Debate Sweepstakes, assistant coach Aaron Kocurek from Neosho, placed 1st in Professional International Public Debate Association (IPDA).

Other Individual awards went to the following: Ginelle Esry, a sophomore from El Dorado, was named Top Novice in Informative Speaking. Elizabeth Sanders, a freshman from Neosho, was named Top Novice and 5th Overall in Communication Analysis. Sanders was also a Quarter-Finalist in Novice IPDA debate. Kyler Bard, a freshman from Seneca, was an Octo-Finalist in Novice IPDA Debate. Taylor Powell, a freshman from Sarcoxie, placed 2nd in Novice IPDA Speaking and was also a Quarter-Finalist. Kayla Williams, a freshman from Neosho, placed 5th in Novice IPDA Speaking and was also a Quarter-Finalist. Gabby Francisco, a senior at East Newton High School, was a Semi-Finalist in Novice IPDA Debate. Thomas Younker, a freshman from Monett, was a Quarter-Finalists in Varsity IPDA Debate.

In Team IPDA, the team of Drew Young (Monett) and Shelby Musgrave (Seneca) were Quarter-Finalists. The team of Francisco and Younker were Semi-Finalists. Finally, the team of Powell and Williams placed 2nd in Team IPDA.

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Pictured from front row from left to right: Esperanza Gutierrez, Shelby Musgrave, Elizabeth Sanders, Gabby Francisco, Tom Younker, Taylor Powell, Kayla Williams. Back Row: Jason Edgar and Aaron Kocurek. Photo courtesy of Whitney Wise from Neosho.

Feel free to contact my office if you have additional questions.