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**For Immediate Release**

**Office of Public Information**

### **Crowder Debate Wins Missouri State Championship**

**Neosho, MO** - The Crowder College Speech and Debate program recently hosted and competed in the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities State Championships. A total of 120 competitors from 13 schools spanning six states competed in the event. Some of the more notable state competition Crowder faced included Missouri State University, the University of Central Missouri, and Southwest Baptist University.

In Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Tom Younker, a freshman from Monett, posted a perfect 4-0 record in preliminary rounds and speaking his way to a State Championship Top Speaker award. In elimination rounds, Younker advanced all the way to the State Finals, where he was defeated on a 2-1 decision by a competitor from Missouri State University, landing him a 2nd place overall finish. Katie Knight, a freshman from Neosho, was State Semi-Finalist and also placed 3rd in LD speaking. Kayla Williams, another freshman from Neosho, was named 5<sup>th</sup> speaker in Lincoln Douglas.

In Novice Parliamentary Debate, Knight paired with Drew Young, a freshman from Pierce City, and accumulated a 4-1 record in preliminary rounds, earning them a spot in the State Final round, where they bowed to a team from Truman State University. Young also placed 7th in Parliamentary Speaking.

In College Public Forum, in a heavily competitive field, the team of Dirk Deaton, a sophomore from MacDonald County, and Shelby Musgrave, a sophomore from Seneca, posted a 3-2 preliminary record, earning them an "Excellence" award in the event. In Forum speaking, Kyler Bard, a freshman from Seneca, placed 4th, and Miranda Johnson, a freshman from Neosho, placed 6th.

After all the scores were tabulated, Crowder College was named Top Community College in Missouri, earning them the distinction of Missouri State Champions. "The team had a stellar weekend," commented Jason Edgar, Crowder's Director of Debate and Tournament host, "when every member of the debate team is bringing home awards, it truly does become a team accomplishment, and I'm also proud of them for being such excellent student hosts."

The team is now off until March 12th when they travel to Indianapolis, IN to compete in the Novice Nationals tournament. For more information, please contact Jason Edgar at [jasonedgar@crowder.edu](mailto:jasonedgar@crowder.edu).

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Crowder College's Speech and Debate team as follows:



(L-R): Jason Edgar, Tom Younker, Kayla Williams, Drew Young, Katie Knight, Hope Guterrez, Dirk Deaton, Shelby Musgrave, Tyler Bard, Miranda Johnson.