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### **Crowder Students Excel at National Debate Tournament**

**Neosho, MO** - Recently the Crowder College Debate program competed in the 2015 Novice National Championships, a nationwide competition reserved for speech and debate competitors in the first year of college. The tournament was held in Indianapolis, IN on the campus of Butler University. A total of 39 schools from 15 states competed in the event. Some of Crowder's more notable competition included the University of West Florida, Ithaca College, and Ball State University.

In Parliamentary Debate, Kayla Williams (Neosho) was named Top Speaker in Parliamentary Debate, an event that had over 50 competitors. When Williams paired with Tom Younker (Monett), the tandem qualified for elimination rounds and ended the tournament as quarter-finalists. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Katie Knight (Neosho) won her own Top Speaker award, ousting 15 other competitors. "Winning both of the Top Speaker awards at Novice Nationals is by definition surreal," stated Jason Edgar, Crowder's Director of Debate. In other Lincoln-Douglas rankings, Williams placed 2nd in elimination rounds, and Younker earned 2nd place in Lincoln-Douglas speaking.

Crowder had three students advance in individual events to the National semifinal round of Impromptu Sales; Miranda Johnson (Neosho), Kyler Bard (Seneca), and Dirk Deaton (McDonald County). Both Bard and Deaton advanced to the final round, earning 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Other students competing for the team included Shelby Musgrave (Seneca) and Elizabeth Sanders (Webb City)

As a team, Crowder College was named the Division II Team Sweepstakes Champions, outscoring all colleges and universities with under 10 competitors. "This award is truly special for the students because it awards all their effort as a team over the entire year," added Jason Edgar. The tournament concludes the team's competitive year with competition resuming this fall in October. For more information please contact Jason Edgar at [jasonedgar@crowder.edu](mailto:jasonedgar@crowder.edu)

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Pictured Left to Right: Shelby Musgrave, Elizabeth Sanders, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kyler Bard, Tom Younger, Dirk Deaton, Miranda Johnson, Coach Jason Edgar, Katie Knight, and Kayla Williams