



June 12, 2015

**For Immediate Release
Office of Public Information**

RE: Crowder College Foundation

Neosho, MO - The Crowder College Foundation Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the Regional Medical School Alliance, a group of business leaders and medical professions who are working with Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences to develop a medical school in Joplin, Missouri. One of the largest nursing schools in the state, Crowder College understands and appreciates the positive impact healthcare careers have on our communities. Providing a more accessible program for our healthcare students, including pre-medical students, is a rare and significant opportunity. Longtime patron of Crowder College, Rudy Farber presented to the Foundation the great need for and special opportunity for southwest Missouri to host a school of medicine.

The College's Foundation is focused on meeting the needs of the community by providing opportunities for our current and future students. According to Crowder College Foundation President Jim Armstrong, "Crowder College has a rich heritage in providing an opportunity for students to further their education that might not have had that opportunity without Crowder. This support of the Regional Medical School Alliance just opens up new avenues. I am proud of the Crowder College Foundation Board for their foresight."

Crowder College President Dr. Jennifer Methvin adds, "The Crowder College Foundation's pledge of support to the Regional Medical School Alliance is just another example of how seriously Crowder takes its charge to create educational opportunities for the citizens we serve. The KCU expansion into southwest Missouri will create 150 new medical school slots annually. Crowder College looks forward to collaborating with other regional higher education institutions to prepare area students to fill those slots."

In recent years, the college has expanded the successful Neosho program into its nine county service district to include: Cassville, Nevada and McDonald County locations. This region alone has twelve hospitals and numerous clinics and medical facilities. The McDonald County program received over 60 applications for the cohort beginning this fall while the Occupational Therapy Assistant program located in Webb City had a 100% pass rate on their board exams with all students employed upon graduation.



Crowder College continues to offer students unique pathways to further their education through university partnerships that allow local students to stay local. With today's technology and opportunities students can continue pursuing their education without life disruptions and additional expenses. The college's response to ever-changing needs is crucial to economic development in the community.

The Crowder College Foundation, Inc., established in 1965, is a not for profit, 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization. The Foundation has a history of service to the institution through the creation of private funding vehicles that have enriched every facet of Crowder.

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Please contact my office if you have additional questions.

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