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**Neosho, MO**

**Crowder/Drury Solar Decathlon Team invites community to participate**

Crowder College and Drury University have teamed up to compete in the Solar Decathlon, which is a contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy in which participants design, fundraise for, market, and build a solar-powered home. Communication is one of the 10 events and involves the community.

The communication event is measured by both the reach of and engagement with the teams' stories, according to Evan Melgren, chair of the Communication Team and student at Drury.

"We need the help of the Crowder and Drury communities," Melgren said. "We need everyone to like our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter, visit our web page and look around, then ask us questions and engage with our online content. By helping us win this prestigious competition, you'll be placing your community in the spotlight thereby bringing awareness to a very real and urgent need."

That need, according to Melgen, is to show millions of people the viability of solar energy and greener architecture via the home's design, which was inspired by the tragic destruction of Joplin's May 2011 tornado.

"The home is not only solar powered but also capable of serving as immediate response housing, aiding in recovery efforts, and then resisting the devastation of future tornadoes, thereby saving lives, reducing the destructive costs involved in rebuilding, and sparing the landfills as well," Melgen said.



While Drury students primarily designed the house and promote the contest, Crowder team members mainly are building the home, said Terry Clarkson, Construction Advisor and faculty at Crowder.

“We couldn’t do our part without them doing their part and vice versa,” Clarkson said. “It’s been a beneficial partnership,” noting that several Drury students worked on the house during the summer and were housed on the Crowder campus.

The communication contest includes the following social media links:

- Website: [shelter.drury.edu](http://shelter.drury.edu)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/drurycrowder2015](http://www.facebook.com/drurycrowder2015)
- Twitter: @CrowderDrurySol using #SD2015
- Instagram: crowderdrurysolar
- Pinterest: crowderdrury

The other Decathlon categories include engineering, appliances, commuting and energy balance. The team leaves for Irvine, Calif., Sept. 25. The communication event runs from now until Oct. 13 while the other events

For more information about the communication contest, contact Evan Melgren;  
[emelgren@gmail.com](mailto:emelgren@gmail.com).

For more information about the construction, contact Terry Clarkson:  
[TerryClarkson@crowder.edu](mailto:TerryClarkson@crowder.edu), 417-455-5713.

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