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**For Immediate Release
Office of Public Information**

Crowder College Part of DOL Apprenticeship Program

Neosho, MO – Crowder College has been recognized by the United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration as a member of the Registered Apprenticeship-College Consortium (RACC). RACC is composed of employers, labor-management groups and associations that have Registered Apprenticeship programs, and two- and four- year postsecondary institutions.

Crowder College attained this membership through sponsorship from Branco Enterprises Inc., as its partner in the Carpentry Apprenticeship program, which started in the fall 2015 semester. At an earlier press conference, John Branham, President of Branco, pointed out the need for this partnership because it's "an industry that can't be outsourced."

As an RACC member, the college will provide high-quality training in skilled positions allowing local business leaders the opportunity to recruit and train employees. The flexibility of the program allows for a business-driven, customizable program, such as the one established with Branco.

"Investing in the training of employees is a win-win for employers as well as the college. As a community college our mission is to build a workforce to support our community. RACC provides the perfect opportunity for success in recruitment and retention of a well-trained employee," stated Kathy Collier, Grants Director, Crowder College.

Crowder College now has the opportunity to partner with more sponsoring businesses to provide apprenticeship training at an affordable cost to area businesses. The college will work with area employers to determine other opportunities for apprenticeship partnerships based on job demand in the area.

For more information please contact our Grants Office at 417-455-5773 or Eddie Stephens, Associate VP of Career and Technical Education at 417-455-5605.

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