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Crowder Faculty Participate in Workshop

Neosho, MO – Forty-five faculty and staff members at Crowder College participated in a two-day workshop presented by Patrick Henry Community College in Virginia. The focus of the workshop was to support colleges in experimenting with ways to improve student performance in their college work.

Patrick Henry was one of 27 colleges across the country in 2003 to participate in a program funded by the Lumina Foundation called *Achieving the Dream*.

Patrick Henry adopted a college-wide approach to teaching and learning that focused on active and collaborative classroom strategies, and has proven to be one of the most successful of the *original Achieving the Dream* colleges in improving student outcomes. Since that time they have established an annual institute where other college faculty train in active and cooperative learning strategies. Two of their trainers, Greg Hodges and Bronte Miller, were on the Crowder campus in Neosho leading the workshop. The underlying philosophy is that students learn most effectively when charged with shared responsibility for what they learn, and for the learning of others in the classroom.

“Many times workshops are presented and the majority of the presentation is simply on the research, not practical ideas for the classroom. The trainers presented real-world activities, which are supported by the research, that our teachers will be able to use in their classrooms. Each teacher left with “tools” for their “tool-box” of activities that will strengthen their instructional program,” stated Dr. Glenn Coltharp, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Crowder administrators, faculty and staff are always working to improve the students experience and this opportunity offered another strategy to continued student learning.

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Bronte Miller, Patrick Henry Community College, leading the discussion at Crowder College during a two-day workshop focusing on ways to improve student performance in their college work.