

CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE: OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

"Promoting Academic & Spiritual Growth in Every Student, while Serving with Integrity & Excellent Stewardship"

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I. History and Organizational Information:

Crowley's Ridge College (CRC) is an outstanding four-year Christian, community-oriented college in Paragould, Arkansas. The College's 150-acre campus boasts rolling hills with numerous pine trees and a small lake near its center on scenic Crowley's Ridge. The campus has more than 92,000 square feet of educational related facilities and plenty of room for future growth. CRC was founded by Emmett Smith in 1964 as an outreach of churches of Christ, and today, serves students from many backgrounds and religious affiliations. It was the first institution of higher learning in Paragould, and currently is the only residential college in the city.



Crowley's Ridge College's official opening day was July 6, 1964. Six presidents have served CRC since its founding. Since 2003, Ken Hoppe, an alumnus of the College has been successfully leading CRC as President. President Hoppe has an outstanding reputation throughout this area as a former automobile dealership/leasing company owner/CEO, Ford/GM consultant, bank president and elder at his congregation.

The College was granted accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission in 2000 and is a member of the North Central Association. CRC's accreditation was renewed in 2005 and again in 2015 for the ten year maximum allowed.

CRC currently offers the following 14 degrees (3 Associate and 11 Bachelor):

- Associate of Arts in General Studies, ▪ Associate in Biblical Studies, ▪ Associate in Ministry
- Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, ▪ Bachelor of Arts in Youth & Family Ministry,
- Bachelor of Science in Christian Leadership & Management, ▪ BSE Physical Education K-12,
- BSE Elementary Education K-6, ▪ Bachelor of Science in Business Administration,
- Bachelor of Science in Management, ▪ Bachelor of Science in Accounting, ▪ Bachelor of Science in Marketing,
- Bachelor of Science in Sports Management, and a
- Bachelor of Science in Christian Leadership & Management.

CRC provides students with a balanced course of studies. In addition to traditional classroom learning, over 40 online classes are currently available, with additional courses ready as academic programs continue to expand. We are proud of CRC's annual May graduates who receive Bachelor and Associate degrees.

CRC is currently governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of 13 Christian men and women from three states with nine being alumni. These trustees represent a variety of professions and each shares CRC's commitment to Christian education. All financially support the College and some are members of our adjunct faculty.

II. Our Target Population:

Crowley's Ridge College has provided a Christian education for approximately 6,000 students since its founding in 1964. Young men and women from 28 states and 12 countries have attended CRC. Today, students are generally enrolled from up to 11 different states and occasionally from other countries. More than 95% of CRC's students receive financial aid and over 50% are from lower income regions in and around the Delta area.

CRC's main service areas are Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee, with Arkansas being the largest student representation from all across the state. Students are provided more than \$990,000 in scholarships each year. These scholarships assist students in many areas, including Christian leadership and service, Bible majors, missions, academic achievements, music, drama, athletics, and for a variety of specialized areas and needs.

The College's mission is to promote academic and spiritual growth in every student. Crowley's Ridge College has an open enrollment policy and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

Students are attracted to CRC because of its Christian principles, personal attention, numerous student activities, and affordable costs. The College has a 10:1 student to faculty ratio. Student activities include drama, intramural sports, retreats, choral music, backpacking, canoeing, and ski outings. Intercollegiate sports program includes men's baseball, basketball, cross country, and golf; women's basketball, cross country, softball, and volleyball. CRC's costs are comparable to Arkansas' public universities and much less than most private colleges and universities throughout the state and nation.

III. Successfully Serving CRC Students:

Crowley's Ridge College does an excellent job of training young men and women to be productive citizens in their communities. The College has numerous positive outcomes regarding the successful lives of its students while on campus and after graduation. Past and present student successes include:

- Alumni working as ministers, doctors, nurses, emergency medical field, educators, school superintendents, college presidents, computer science, accountants, banking, small business owners, police officers, state troopers, fish and game department, entrepreneurs, homemakers, farmers, politicians, industry managers, and in many other important positions.
- Alumni assist CRC graduates in finding a variety of jobs following graduation.
- Alumni return to campus after graduation to assist in weekly devotionals, daily chapel, CRC's annual Bible lectureship and as mentors to current students.
- Alumni represent CRC in their various communities, encouraging soon to be high school graduates to attend Crowley's Ridge College. Alumni also encourage others to support CRC, and attend area promotional and campus events.
- Many CRC alumni currently serve as preachers and youth ministers among congregations in northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri. Graduates currently or have served in full-time ministry for congregations in 25 states.
- Students and alumni have done mission work in 20 countries on 6 continents.



IV. Financial Information:

The current annual budget of Crowley's Ridge College is \$4,139,000. This operational budget is financed by three main sources of revenue: 74% student tuition, 24% annual fund gifts from alumni, churches, foundations, businesses, and friends of the college, and 2% endowment income. CRC departmental budgets are reviewed at regular intervals. The College generally operates within the philosophy of not borrowing money to pay for new structures with construction not beginning until approximately one half of the funds have been raised.

CRC is pleased to have a positive cash flow each year, in which a majority of any surplus funds are generally utilized for needed capital improvements to assist in the College's future growth. CRC contracts with an independent accounting firm to conduct an annual audit.

V. Concluding Remarks Regarding CRC's Case for Support:

What is the case for supporting Christian education at Crowley's Ridge College? The answer is easy . . . our students! They are CRC's only reason for existing. The College strives daily to meet our founders' goal of having CRC graduates strengthen their local congregations and to be Christian leaders throughout their lives.

Many of the students that have attended CRC could have gone to a variety of colleges and universities. Others students could not have, as some were from small schools and communities and perhaps not ready for a large

university or college setting. Some needed a little extra help in being able to make good grades in a higher learning environment. The extra attention a student receives from CRC’s teachers and classes tailored to their individual needs allows them to succeed at the college level, while also benefitting them from our Christian environment. CRC strongly believes in the need to help any student who wants to enroll in college; to help them learn at the college level and to succeed as a Christian, in all aspects of life.

VI. How Can You Help?

At Crowley’s Ridge College, we deeply desire to be good stewards of the money entrusted to us. As you know, a



college education is costly, especially at a private school, where a significant amount of our funds are from individuals, churches, foundations, and businesses. CRC does not receive funding from the budget of the state of Arkansas as do public colleges and universities. That is a big part of why your support is so critical. We appreciate the generous support and prayers provided for CRC. If you do not support or pray for CRC, please begin today. We need your continued support and ask others to join in supporting CRC to help us provide a quality, academic, Christian education for our

young men and women. We need and ask for your support.

Without the support of friends like you, CRC could not operate. We welcome your tax-deductible donations of any kind, including gifts of:

- Cash
- Stocks
- Bonds
- Real Estate
- Personal Property
- Certificates of Deposit
- In-kind goods or services
- Memorial and Honor gifts
- Scholarships (*Bible, Academic, Endowment*)
- Underwrite costs of specific services/programs
- Sponsorship gifts for annual events (*Reaching Your Dreams, Bible Lectureship, and student trips*)

A planned gift works well for many of our donors, especially with appreciated assets. Our staff can help you with any planned gift to help you receive the most advantageous tax benefits and/or income for life:

- Wills, Bequests (*please include CRC in your Will or Estate Plan. A great way to endow your annual gifts*)
- Charitable IRA Rollover (*substantial charitable gifts without taxing required minimum distribution*)
- Charitable Gift Annuity (*fixed rates, may increase your current income for life and retirement income*)
- Charitable Remainder Trust or a Charitable Lead Trust (*find out which trust is best for your situation*)
- Retirement Plans (*great way to leave a charitable gift to CRC and avoid tax consequences to heirs*)
- Life Insurance (*an excellent way to endow your annual giving to CRC or leave a major gift to CRC*)
- Life Estate of home or farm (*income tax deduction for giving to CRC; continue living there for life*)

To donate or learn more about any of these giving opportunities, please contact:



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