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Contact: Shelby Unruh
Public Relations Coordinator
(580) 242-2750, Ext. 226
sunruh@autrytech.edu

Enid Launches 1 Million Cups to Educate, Connect Local Entrepreneurs

*Free, monthly program developed by the Kauffman Foundation
helps build startup communities nationwide*

ENID, OKLA. — Enid will soon be the newest home of a national program to engage, educate and connect local entrepreneurs. Founded by the Kauffman Foundation, 1 Million Cups is based on the notion that entrepreneurs network and discover solutions over a million cups of coffee. The free, monthly gathering helps build startup communities on a grassroots level.

Beginning Feb. 28, entrepreneurs, innovators, funders and other interested community members are invited to attend the event scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Five80 Coffeehouse, located at 122 E. Randolph Avenue in Enid, Okla.

The program's model is consistent in each city: At each event, two early-stage startups present their companies to an audience of mentors, advisers and other entrepreneurs. Each founder presents for six minutes followed by a 20-minute question-and-answer session with the audience.

In each 1 Million Cups city, local entrepreneurs drive the program as community organizers. Volunteering for the leadership roles in Enid are:

- Suzanne Gray, owner of Anderson-Burris Funeral Home & Crematory
- Brenda Sheik, Self-Employment Coordinator at Autry Technology Center
- Christopher Sneed, Director of Fly Film Festival and full-time student
- Curtis D. Tucker, Entrepreneur and Creator of Enid Buzz
- Kegan Tuohy, Loan Officer/Credit Analyst at BancCentral
- Meredith Westfahl, Small Business Management Coordinator at Autry Technology Center

"Enid has a long history of celebrating that entrepreneurial spirit!" Tuohy said. "1 Million Cups Enid will add another dimension and energy to the support for small start-up businesses that Enid is known for."

For more information on the program, contact Brenda Sheik at 580.242.2750 or visit www.1millioncups.com.

Autry Technology Center has been part of the Enid community since 1967 and is one of 29 CareerTech schools across Oklahoma. The center has more than 25 career programs and offers a wide variety of evening and weekend short-term courses and certifications for many diverse career fields. Autry serves nearly 16,000 individuals each year, including many area employees who receive training through the Business and Industry Services Department that works with over 500 local businesses each year.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private, nonpartisan foundation that works together with communities in education and entrepreneurship to create uncommon solutions and empower people to shape their futures and be successful. The Kauffman Foundation is based in Kansas City, Missouri, and uses its \$2 billion in assets to collaboratively help people be self-sufficient, productive citizens. For more information, visit www.kauffman.org and connect with us at www.twitter.com/kauffmanfdn and www.facebook.com/kauffmanfdn.

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