

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2018 Cherokee Strip Business Model Competition Winners Named

ENID, OKLA. — The 2018 Cherokee Strip Business Model Competition winners were announced on May 3 at the awards ceremony at the Oakwood Country Club. Ten businesses submitted their business plan in the competition.

Red Bird Farm was awarded first place in the competition and will receive \$10,000. Founded by Kent and Becky Evatt, Red Bird Farm's goal is to be a premiere Agritourism destination in Enid, Okla., with an initial and primary focus on Christmas trees. They will provide a local cut-your-own Christmas tree farm offering fresh high-quality trees and superior customer service, all with an authentic farm atmosphere.

Second place and \$5,000 went to Scoops Ice Cream Truck. Owned and operated by Aaron and Courtney Barber, Scoops Ice Cream Truck was established to deliver a memorable experience and exciting product to the Enid community and northwest Oklahoma. Operating with just one truck when it began in 2015, Scoops Ice Cream Truck now offers three trucks for the 2018 season. They offer premium quality novelty ice cream from top brand names in the industry.

Third place received \$3,000 and went to The Silver Care Home. The Silver Care Home also received the People's Choice award and an additional \$1,000. The Silver Care Home, owned by Bob Osborn, is an alternative to institutional type senior living and will provide a ten-bed residential home in a residential neighborhood. The residence will partner with a personal care service to provide services for activities of daily living. This will allow the senior residents the comforts of home with the benefits of a full-service facility at a very competitive price.

Fourth place and \$1,000 was awarded to Cornerstone Chiropractic. Founded in April 2017 by Dr. John Conaway, D.C. and his wife Megan, Cornerstone Chiropractic's mission is to build a foundation of healing to see every person they serve live up to his or her full potential. They will explicitly provide scientific chiropractic adjustment that is based on precision with the goal to reduce vertebral subluxation.

The top three winners receive one year of Self Employment Training client status. SET status includes access to the James W. Strate Center for Business Development during business hours to use the conference room, copier, printer, plan room, computer with adobe suite, and three business coaching sessions.

To be eligible for the competition, businesses had to be less than five years old. The competition consisted of three phases: submission of a business plan, a ten-minute oral presentation, and a final presentation in front of a judging panel. Judges were a diverse group of professionals with experience based in academics, investment, financial institutions, entrepreneurship and business. Funding for the competition is provided in combined effort by investors in the Enid Entrepreneur Leadership Series. Investors include Paul & Joan Allen, Ward Petroleum Corporation, Enid Regional Development Alliance, Encompass Financial Services, Central Machine & Tool, Parrish Manufacturing Group, David S. Russell, MD, National Bank of Commerce, Security

National Bank, St. Mary's Regional Hospital, The Cummins Construction Co., Inc., Central National Bank, Envirotech, Groendyke Transport, Inc., Johnston Enterprises, Michael P. Wright – Edward Jones Investment and OG&E.

Autry Technology Center has been a 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.

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