

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Autry's Strate Center for Business Development Tenant Selected for Thunder Launchpad Program

ENID, OKLA. — Autry's Strate Center for Business Development tenant and winner of the 2017 Cherokee Strip Business Model Competition Tony Weedn with BaseConnect was recently accepted as a participant in the inaugural class of The Thunder Launchpad, a new business initiative from the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Weedn, along with nine other tech entrepreneurs from across Oklahoma, will receive mentoring from a variety of business leaders. At the end of the 12-week program, the founders will have an opportunity to present their plans to the investment and business community in Oklahoma and across the U.S.

"We are always proud when our tenants are recognized for their hard work and dedication to entrepreneurship," said Brian Gaddy, Director of Center for Business Development and IT at Autry Technology Center. "This is a well-deserved honor for BaseConnect and we are excited to see their success in the future!"

BaseConnect is a secure, military-only social media platform designed to connect troops to each other, their base and the local community. Many military members must relocate every three years, forcing them to find housing, banking services, schools and other services in their new communities. From a career in the Air Force and Special Forces, Weedn is now on a new mission to connect members of the military and their families with resources and information from base to base.

The Thunder has partnered in the accelerator program with StitchCrew, an Oklahoma City company that seeks to foster technology-driven entrepreneurs in getting their ideas off the ground and ready to be venture-backed.

For more information about Autry's Strate Center for Business Development, visit autrytech.edu or contact Brian Gaddy at bgaddy@autrytech.edu or 580-242-2750.

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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