

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

## **Autry's Respiratory Care Graduates Earn Employment Offers Long Before Graduation**

ENID, OKLA. — In the Respiratory Care program at Autry Technology Center, success isn't measured by straight A's, test scores or a 4.0 GPA. Success is measured by employment after graduation and when it comes to the 2018 graduates, the program is batting a thousand.

The class doesn't complete the program until July, but all eight of the 2018 Respiratory Care graduates had secured full-time positions in the profession by the end of April. The average starting hourly rate is \$22 per hour and some students even earned sign-on bonuses and relocation packages.

"That is simply remarkable," said Deryl Gulliford, Autry's Respiratory Care Program Director. "How many professions are in such demand that students already have their full-time jobs lined up three months before graduation? I would venture to say not many."

Students often find careers in hospitals, home healthcare, medical and equipment sales, physicians' offices and specialized clinics. This year's graduates have earned employment offers from St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Integris Bass Baptist Health Center, Stillwater Medical Center, Bethany Children's Center, OU Medical Center – Adult Care and OU Medical Center – Children's Hospital.

This year's graduating includes Logan Rader, Jenan Ayesh, Caterina Stevens, Eric Eck, Brendan Overfelt, Chelsi Bolin, Kelsey Castle and Tifiny Hatfield.

The Respiratory Care program is a 24-month adult only program where students spend time in the classroom and in clinical settings in preparation to become a Respiratory Therapist. Upon program completion, a student may test for Certified Respiratory Therapist credentials, Oklahoma License and is eligible for the advanced level examination to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

Respiratory Therapists (RT) are highly-trained medical staff who work with patients that need assistance with respiratory or cardiopulmonary problems. An RT is proficient in the therapeutic use of medical gases, humidification, mechanical ventilation, artificial airways, chest physiotherapy and CPR. As a healthcare specialist, the RT may also be instrumental in the diagnosis, treatment and preventive care of patients with asthma, pulmonary emphysema, pulmonary edema and respiratory distress.

"At Autry, we see our students as our product and business and industry as our customer," said Brady McCullough, Superintendent/CEO at Autry Technology Center. "This is a great testament to the success of our programs. We look forward to seeing these exceptional graduates accomplish in the future!"

To learn more about the Respiratory Care program or other programs available at Autry, visit [autrytech.edu](http://autrytech.edu) or call 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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Pictured from left to right are 2018 Autry Respiratory Care graduates:(Back row) Brendan Overfelt, Logan Rader, Chelsi Bolin, Caterina Stevens, Program Director Deryl Gulliford, Jenan Ayesh, (Front row) Tifini Hatfield, Eric Eck  
Not pictured: Kelsey Castle