

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Autry Accepting Applications for 2019 Cherokee Strip Business Model Competition

ENID, OKLA. — Autry Technology Center’s annual Cherokee Strip Business Model Competition is now taking applications. The deadline to apply is April 12, 2019. Up to \$30,000 will be awarded to the top four teams.

“The Business Model Competition is a tremendous opportunity for local businesses and entrepreneurs to present their concept to experienced judges,” said Meredith Westfahl, Autry small business management coordinator. “Competitors gain incredible feedback and access to seed capital. It is also a great way for companies to gain exposure in the local market.”

Businesses interested in entering must be less than five years old to be eligible. Preference may be shown to businesses operating in the Enid and Northwest Oklahoma trade area. The competition consists of three phases: submission of a business plan, a fifteen-minute oral presentation and a third presentation in front of a judging panel. Four winners and a people’s choice winner will be selected. Top three winners will receive one year of co-working space at the James W. Strate Center for Business Development.

“The competition was created to put education into action,” said Brian Gaddy, Director of the Strate Center for Business Development. “Enid has a multitude of educational opportunities for business owners, and we wanted to add the motivation of a contest with significant funding up for grabs to get aspiring and new business owners to apply business concepts to their projects.”

More than \$100,000 has been awarded in seed capital through the Cherokee Strip Business Model Competition since its start in 2012. Funding for the competition is provided in combined effort by donors in the Enid Entrepreneur Leadership Series. Donors for this year’s competition include Paul and Joan Allen, Ward Family Foundation, Enid Regional Development Alliance, Encompass Financial Services, Inc., Central Machine and 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., Envirotech, Johnston Enterprises, Michael P. Wright – Edward Jones Investment, OG&E, Groendyke Transport, Inc. and Central National Bank.

For more information about the competition and for an application, visit autrytech.edu or contact Meredith Westfahl at mwestfahl@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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