

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Autry Names March Students of the Month**

ENID, Okla. – Autry Technology Center has named three students as the March Students of the Month. These students were selected based on their performance in and out of the classroom as students, role models and future professionals.

Gwentina Begay is an adult student in the Welding Technology program at Autry Technology Center. Originally from Arizona, Gwen has found Autry to be a great fit for her personal and professional life. She plans on completing the Welding Technology program in May 2019. Gwen is the shop foreman in her program at Autry Tech. She attended the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference and received her Statesman Award. She also competed at the SkillsUSA Regional Welding Fabrication Postsecondary contest and was part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team. At the SkillsUSA Northwest District Leadership Contest, she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Postsecondary Extemporaneous Speech division. She plans on competing in the State SkillsUSA Welding Sculpture contest in April.

“Gwen has great work ethic and determination,” said Ryland Stonehocker, Welding Technology instructor. “She is truly driven to be the best welder she can be. As an all-day student, wife, and mother of 4, she brings her Navajo heritage, upbringing, and family to the classroom and shop and is one of the hardest working students in the class.”

Caleb Buckminster is a second-year high school student in the Information Technology program at Autry Technology Center. He is also a senior at Chisholm High School and works at Jumbo Foods. Caleb competed at the State BPA Spring Leadership Conference in both the Computer Security and Systems Administration Using Cisco contests. He placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the state in both contest areas. He was also a participant in one of Autry’s CyberPatriot teams and was an integral part of the CyberPatriot team that achieved Gold status and qualified for the national semi-finals round. Caleb plans to attend college at NOC and Northwestern here in Enid, majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Accounting.

“Caleb is very deserving of the BPA Student of the Month,” said Melissa Hula and Barbara Leathers, Information Technology instructors. “He performs very well in our program. He is a great team player. He is always willing to participate in activities and tours to showcase Autry Tech and the Information Technology program.”

Deena Bush is an adult student in the Clinical Medical Assisting program at Autry Technology Center. For many years, Deena made a career out of cutting hair. She recently decided to make a career change and chose Autry for her training. She chose the Clinical Medical Assisting program because she knew the healthcare industry is a very in demand industry for employability and the skills she is learning in this program can be utilized anywhere if she chooses to move.

“Deena works ahead in class to stay ahead of the curve,” said Sandra Patocka, Clinical Medical Assisting instructor. “She has overcome difficulties in technology and learning to keep up with her classmates. Yet, through all of this she remains supportive and encouraging to all her classmates. She is always kind and watchful of people’s feelings and needs. I have seen her meet personal needs of individuals in class and help them through hard times.”

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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