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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2020

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Autry Technology Center Students Embracing Distance Learning Opportunities

ENID, OKLA. — As Autry Technology Center enters the third week of distance learning, students are finding unique ways to continue their training at home. Autry Tech began delivering training in online learning environments on April 6, 2020, in response to the CDC guidelines for social distancing.

“Our students and instructors have done a tremendous job navigating this situation,” said Brady McCullough, Autry Technology Center CEO/Superintendent. “We are continuing to grow and learn together even though we have to be apart.”

Graphic Arts student and Enid High School senior Kieran Niles is utilizing the video editing skills he has been polishing in his training program to help his church. Niles has stayed busy both capturing and editing video for broadcast of Oakwood Christian Church services.

Health Careers student and Enid High School junior Alexis Marquez took advantage of her new distance learning schedule and started as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Arbors Assisted Living Center. Marquez is putting the skills she learned in the classroom to work in her new position.

Autry Tech’s Business & Industry Services team has found new opportunities to deliver training in online formats. Each week, Autry Tech safety trainers host an online safety series, available through Zoom and at no charge to attendees. Topics have included Stress Management, Back Safety and Bloodborne Pathogens.

In response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) waiver for Nurse Aide training, Autry Tech has also partnered with long term care facilities to offer an Uncertified Nurse Aide training program. The online course meets the required 16 hours of training and costs \$25 per trainee. The training is designed to help facilities address impending and actual staffing shortages among healthcare providers.

“Our goal is to provide online learning environments in such a manner that will continue to provide a productive and prepared workforce for employers,” said McCullough. “Our students, instructors and staff have embraced the challenge and continue to exceed our expectations.”

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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