

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Autry Tech Names October Students of the Month

ENID, Okla. – Autry Technology Center has named three students as the October 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.

Abby Vandiver is a second-year high school student in the Graphic Arts program at Autry Tech. She is also a senior at Kremlin-Hillsdale High School, where she is a member of FFA, band, National Honor Society, Student Council and the basketball and track teams.

Vandiver was very active during her first year at Autry Tech, serving as the reporter of the SkillsUSA officer team, a member of the FIRST Robotics team and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. She was elected to serve as the SkillsUSA Northwest District president this year.

Vandiver is also an active member of Hillsdale Christian Church and volunteers for many community service projects including ESPCA and Our Daily Bread. Vandiver plans to continue her education in the Culinary Arts program at Autry Tech next year with a goal of marketing, owning and operating her own farm to table restaurant in Colorado.

“Abby is very perceptive to the mood and feelings of both her classmates and team,” said Cheryl Cooksey, Graphic Arts instructor. “She is always willing to go the extra mile to motivate and include everyone. Miss Vandiver leads with positivity, kindness and grace. She exemplifies high moral values in all endeavors.”

Katelyn Cooper is a second-year high school student in the Medical Front Office program at Autry Tech. She is also a senior at Cimarron High School where she is Vice President of the senior class, runs track and plays basketball.

Her favorite thing about Autry Tech is the environment. She really likes her class and what she is learning. Cooper is appreciative that all the staff at Autry Tech are very kind, happy and helpful.

Once she completes her curriculum in May 2022, she would like to secure a job in a medical office and obtain her associate’s degree at NOC. She is also considering the Radiography program at Autry Tech to further her education.

“Katelyn is very deserving of the BPA Student of the Month honor,” said Tera Davis, Medical Front Office instructor. “She has an excellent attendance record and is always ahead of schedule in her courses. She works hard on all assignments, ensuring she is turning in excellent work. Katelyn is always willing to help not only

me, but other students as well. She always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude, which are essential skills for the Medical Front Office program and jobs. I know that I can always count on Katelyn to help in any way needed.”

Sarah Decker is a first-year high school student in the Health Careers program at Autry Tech. She is also a senior completing a home school curriculum while taking some college classes at NOC.

She chose Autry Tech and the Health Careers program because she wants to attend NWOSU starting next year to complete her RN BSN degree. A prerequisite for that program is to obtain her Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) license, and she thought Autry Tech would be the best choice for her to be able to complete that requirement. Decker eventually wants to become a nurse that helps everyone. Being career driven, she volunteered this summer at Integris Bass Baptist Hospital, where she helped out in the kitchen, gift shop, and surgery department.

Decker attends New Hope Dale Mennonite Church in Meno where she makes homemade bierocks for the annual Oklahoma Mennonite Relief Sale, plays the piano for the yearly Christmas program and helps with Vacation Bible School.

“Sarah is an amazing student who has a positive, sweet attitude all the time,” said Lois McCullough, Health Careers instructor. “One thing that has really impressed me about Sarah is that she is a very hard worker. She always turns her work in on time and has one of the highest grades in the class. In class, we have been learning about dignity, service, excellence, fairness, and justice. Sarah definitely is an example of all of these. After everyone has left for the day, Sarah always stays and makes a point to straighten all of our laptops and make sure they are plugged in so they will be charged and ready for the next day. That is how Sarah is a servant willing to serve.”

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 Corporate Training Department that works with over 500 local businesses each year.

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