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Autry Tech Names December Students of the Month

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

Zachary Keen is a first-year all-day adult student in the Welding Technology program at Autry Technology Center. Keen chose to attend Autry Tech because he knew he could relate to students his age and for the opportunity to gain multiple certificates. He enjoys how friendly everyone at Autry Tech is.

Since he started at Autry Tech, Keen has run for class office, SkillsUSA president, shop foreman and SkillsUSA state officer. Keen is the current shop foreman as a first-year student in the first semester of his welding career. He was elected through a nomination process ran by his fellow classmates. Keen also recently earned a spot on the 2021-2022 SkillsUSA Oklahoma postsecondary officer team.

“Mr. Keen is always ready to help, whether it is here in the classroom or the maintenance, fabricating or welding something in the live-work for the public,” said Welding Technology Teaching Assistant Quentin Smith. “I have taught for 15 years, and I have seen many great people come into this program. I believe there is no better person to receive this recognition. Mr. Keen is always readily available to take on a new challenge and I cannot wait to see how far this man can go with his passion for living.”

After he completes his training at Autry Tech, Keen plans to travel for a couple years and get his Certified Welding Inspector Certification. He then wants to return home to rebuild his family’s cattle ranch while also welding for farms around the area.

Kadin Roberts is a second-year high school student in the Information Technology program at Autry Technology Center. He is also a senior at Enid High School. He chose to come to Autry Tech because he felt it was a great opportunity to do something different than college.

His favorite part of the IT curriculum is networking, and he enjoys subnetting and configuring devices. His favorite thing about Autry Tech is how friendly everyone is. He appreciates all of the staff being willing to help out the students.

“Kadin is very deserving of the BPA student of the month,” said Information Technology Instructors Melissa Hula and Jacob Roberson. “He performs very well in our program. Kadin has an excellent attendance record and is always ahead of schedule in his courses. He is a critical thinker and has an aptitude in the IT area. He is always willing to go above and beyond with any tasks he is asked to participate in. He is kind and courteous to

everyone in which he interacts. These skills, coupled with his IT skills, will be very beneficial for Kadin in the future.”

Roberts is planning on using the Autry Tech Tuition Scholarship next year to complete the entire IT curriculum and then secure a job in the IT industry locally or close to Enid.

Dayami Ortega is a first-year adult student in the Dental Assisting program at Autry Technology. She graduated from Hennessey High School in 2021 and also completed the Medical Front Office program at Chisholm Trail Technology Center. She chose to come to Autry Tech because Chisholm Trail did not offer Dental Assisting. She appreciates the programs at CareerTech because they are more affordable than college and allow students to complete their career options in short time periods.

“Dayami is a very sweet, kind, and positive young lady,” said Dental Assisting Instructor Traci Gosney. “She is always ready to help me and others in the class. When we are going over skills in the lab, she has always kept a very positive attitude even when the skill gets tough. She is ready to help anyone through the different skills. She seems to be the first one in the lab to get it running and the last one out making sure it is clean and back to order.”

After completing the Dental Assisting program, Ortega would like to get a job with a local dentist office to utilize the training she is learning.

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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