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### **Autry Tech Offers Oklahoma’s Leading Respiratory Care Training Program**

ENID, Okla. – The COVID-19 pandemic has raised awareness of the Respiratory Therapy profession nationwide, increasing the demand for nationally registered respiratory therapists in the industry. Students interested in becoming a respiratory therapist in Oklahoma have five choices for a training program: Tulsa Community College, Rose State College, Francis Tuttle Technology Center (partnered with Oklahoma City Community College), Cameron University (partnered with Great Plains Technology Center) and Autry Technology Center (partnered with Northern Oklahoma College).

The program with the best student outcomes year after year isn’t located in Oklahoma City or Tulsa, it is right here in Enid, Okla. The program’s long-term success takes teamwork, strong support from both Autry Technology Center and Northern Oklahoma College administration, a committed team of clinical affiliate hospitals and doctors, and truly dedicated students.

Autry Tech’s Respiratory Care program opened in 2006 under the direction of Dr. Deryl Gulliford, RRT, DHA, JD-H. Jim Grantz, BS, RRT was soon added to the faculty as Director of Clinical Education. The program has 118 graduates to date, with a 96% pass rate on the board examinations conducted by the National Board for Respiratory Care, and 94% of those graduates have found positions working in the field.

"The Respiratory Care program at Autry Tech changed my life," said Jaiden Bolin, Respiratory Care graduate. "The professors not only want you to succeed in their program, they want you to be a leader in this profession. Dr. Gulliford makes a point to get to know each of his students personally and will help them in whatever career choices they chose to make in the future. I always know that Dr. G and Mr. Grantz are just a phone call away. Respiratory care is such a needed field right now, and I am so thankful I had the privilege of learning from two professors who will go to the end of the world for their students to succeed."

"A real strength of our training program is the diversity of clinical experiences which our students receive," said Grantz.

Students in Autry Tech’s Respiratory Care program participate in clinical rotations at the following facilities:

- St. Mary’s Hospital
- Integris-Bass Hospital
- Stillwater Medical Center
- University of Oklahoma Medical Center
- University of Oklahoma Children’s Hospital
- St. Francis Hospital – Tulsa
- Hillcrest Medical Center – Tulsa

- Bethany Children's Center – Bethany
- Pulmonary Associates of Enid – Drs. Brian Whitson and Sarah Matousek

“Today, anyone who graduates from our program and wants to practice will find a position,” said Dr. Gulliford. “With the baby boomers aging and needing more and more medical services, the demand for respiratory therapists is great and growing. Meanwhile, recovering COVID patients are requiring extensive testing, rehabilitation and long-term care. This is further increasing the need for our profession and salaries are keeping up with that increasing need. Many hospitals are also paying sizeable bonuses and relocation expenses to get our graduates.”

After graduation with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Care from Northern Oklahoma College, Autry Tech's students often go to work at Integris-Bass Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Stillwater Medical Center, OU Medical Center, OU Children's Hospital, Bethany Children's Center, Mercy Health System, St. Francis Hospital and a variety of other medical facilities.

“We also have graduates in Wichita, Dallas, Houston, the Carolinas, Montana and Alaska,” said Dr. Gulliford. “Several of our graduates are ‘travelers’ meaning that they take 13-week assignments anywhere in the country. That makes for an interesting life.”

“I had finished my bachelor's degree and knew I wanted to pursue a career in healthcare, but wasn't 100% sure of what route to go,” said Jaznee White, Respiratory Care graduate. “A big decision factor for me was I didn't want to be in school another four years or be in more student debt. That's when I learned about Autry Tech's Respiratory Care program and fell in love. I really liked the small class atmosphere, hands-on experience and was finished in a little under two years. I am now a thriving RT And on the front lines in one of the most valued healthcare professions during this global pandemic. If you are looking for an ever changing and evolving healthcare career where you get in on ALL the action, Respiratory Care is the place for you!”

Autry Technology Center is currently accepting applications to begin the Respiratory Care program in August 2022. Applications are due May 4, 2022. To learn more about the program and application process, visit <https://autrytech.edu/how-to-apply/#advancedmedicalresources>.

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 Tech serves nearly 16,000 individuals each year, including many area employees who receive training through the Corporate Training Department.

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