

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Feb. 16, 2022

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### **Autry Technology Center Names February Students of the Month**

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

Braden Nichols is a second-year adult student in the Air Conditioning & Refrigeration program at Autry Tech. He graduated from Timberlake High School in 2020. During high school, Nichols competed in football, baseball and powerlifting. He was active in FFA and served as class secretary during his senior year.

Nichols now lives in Enid with his brother who encouraged him to attend Autry Tech. Nichols serves as an Autry Professional Representative, assisting with on-campus tours and recruiting events for the Air Conditioning & Refrigeration program. Nichols recently placed second at the SkillsUSA Regional Skills Contest in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, which qualifies him for the state competition later this year.

Outside of Autry Tech, Nichols works at the Carrier Mill & Elevator Co. He also enjoys hunting, fishing and anything outdoors!

“Mr. Nichols is a well-rounded student in many ways,” said Brian Terrell, Autry Tech Air Conditioning & Refrigeration instructor. “He is an excellent student with great work ethic. He is always ready to help out no matter what the job.”

After he completes his training at Autry Tech, Nichols hopes to earn his journeyman’s license and enter the workforce.

Lenni Resendiz is a first-year high school student in the Business & Office Services program at Autry Technology Center. She is also a senior at Enid High School where she is a member of National Honor Society, on the varsity soccer team, and fills her schedule with AP and internship classes, and participates in college prep opportunities through NOC’s Upward Bound program. She also works part time at Swadley’s BBQ.

Resendiz recently completed online tests in the areas of Accounting, Word Processing, Financial Math, Administrative Support, Digital Communications and Design, Business Meeting Management, Marketing and HR in order to qualify for the BPA State Contests that will be held in Tulsa on March 7-9.

As part of Resendiz's internship class at EHS, she is currently interning for a local boutique helping market the business. She is combining skills learned at the high school and Autry Tech to be successful in the business world.

"I have witnessed Lenni's dedication to being not only a successful student but also a successful person," said Andrea Long, Autry Tech Business & Office Services instructor. "Her kindness and positive attitude are reflected often in the classroom as she helps others. Her attention to details and the pride she takes in her work sets her apart. There are numerous more characteristics I could share about Lenni, but one that I observe on a daily basis in the classroom is she takes the initiative when it comes to getting tasks completed. She does not wait for someone to tell her what to do, she looks for what is necessary to get done and dives right in. She is hands down one of the hardest workers and self-motivated students I have had the honor of teaching. These attributes make it easy to recognize her as the BPA Student of the Month."

Resendiz would eventually like to start her own business in the area of architectural engineering. She is looking at options in the Computer-Aided Drafting and Design program at Autry Tech as well as college programs.

Gretchen Kesinger an adult student in the Dental Assisting program at Autry Tech. She is no stranger to Autry Tech as she has also been a student in the Health Careers and Cosmetology programs. She graduated from Drummond High School in 2020 and is utilizing the Autry Tuition Scholarship to continue her education and work towards her career goal.

Kesinger is serving this year as the HOSA Vice-President for the afternoon HOSA classes. She is also an Autry Professional Representative for the Dental Assisting program. She also works at Ulta Beauty.

Recently, Kesinger helped volunteer at the Enid Dental Day. She was able to practice skills she is learning in class in a real-life situation as well as help out people in need. She is also participating in job shadowing experiences at some local dental offices. She feels these experiences are giving her the ability to do things that are not available in the classroom and lab settings.

"Gretchen is a one-of-a-kind young lady!" said Traci Gosney, Autry Tech Dental Assisting instructor. "There have been many times that Gretchen has helped me explain to other students the need for leadership and has filled the role very well. When we are going over hands-on skills, she has always kept a very positive attitude, even when others have not. I have seen the love for the dental field in this young lady in my class as well as outside the classroom. I feel that she understands the need for professionalism in the dental profession. She will be a wonderful asset to the dental field."

After completing the Dental Assisting program, she would like to follow her mom's footsteps and work as a Dental Assistant in the Enid area.

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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