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PRESS RELEASE

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AZ MOM discovers skilled volunteers in West-MEC's Dental Assisting program

Glendale, Ariz. (December, 2021)-- On December 10th, the Arizona dental Mission of Mercy (AZ MOM) opened the state fair premises for free dental treatments to all in the community. West-MEC's Dental Assisting student volunteered for the two-day event which had an estimated 1,800 patients.

The event had dentists, hygienists, technicians and volunteers come together to clean, fill and extract teeth. The setup started on the 9th when a busload of West-MEC students came to the state fairgrounds to help set up equipment, hook up plumbing and more. On the 10th, second-year students of the program assisted doctors, manned sterilization stands and guided patients.

Founding member of AZ MOM and dentist Dr. Gary Jones said, "We're here to serve anyone who has a need. The aim is to detect infection, help with pain control and give patients a smile at no cost. We normally do two million dollars worth of dentistry over the two days."

While students gained experience through the work-based learning experience, Madison Russell a second-year student was able to do more due to her X-ray certification. The industry credential allowed her to volunteer her skills in taking scans of the patients.

"When your students came off the buses and helped out...they set the entire place up in a matter of hours. Your students are great and I hope they come back every year", said Executive Director of the CADS foundation, Dr. Kevin Conroy.

Some of the responsibilities of the students included digital impressions, translation and assisting in surgical procedures. West-MEC was the only high school program volunteering at the event, with 70 students contributing their time and skills.

About West-MEC:

West-MEC is a career technical education public school district that focuses solely on innovative career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare students to enter the workforce and pursue continuing education. West-MEC CTE programs provide students opportunities to earn college credit and industry credentials. West-MEC serves more than 37,000 students from 48 high schools, across 3,876 square miles in the northern and western cities of the Phoenix Metropolitan area. West-MEC now also offers adult education programs. Visit www.west-mec.edu for more information about West-MEC's career-driven education opportunities or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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