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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West-MEC students volunteer at TeamSmile's free dental camp

Glendale, Ariz. (September, 2021)-- The Dental Assisting students from West-MEC, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) district in the West Valley, participated in a dental camp conducted by TeamSmile, a national advocacy group, serving children from underserved communities.

The free camp was held at the Gila River Arena on the 14th and 15th of September for children under eighteen. The oral treatments offered were dental check-ups, cleanings, brush-on fluoride treatments and more. The third day of the camp was held in Tucson, on the 16th.

Julie Ehrman, the Dental Assisting instructor and a Certified Dental Assistant has volunteered at TeamSmile events for the past eight years. This year, West-MEC's Dental Assisting program had an opportunity to participate. While describing the dental camp and its benefits, Julie said, "This event is part of our work-based learning that we provide to the kids. It allows them to see what their future can be. They get to see hygienists, assistants and dentists all in one place serving children in a six-hour window per day."

The CTE students provided dental education on how to brush and floss teeth. They gained hands-on experience making boil and bite mouth guards that children can use during sports to protect their teeth.

In describing the students' participation, Program Director of TeamSmile Kellie Reneau-Jardon said, "The students were a huge asset to our program. They were wonderful with the patients and created awesome educational banners."

In Arizona, West-MEC students were the only high school aged volunteers in the TeamSmile phase II program. The approximate number of children treated in Phoenix was 225, with an additional 105 in Tucson.

According to TeamSmile, the goal of the program is to evaluate the patient and place them in a dental home. Apart from providing dental healthcare treatments, patients were given oral health education, dental hygiene kits to encourage them to maintain their teeth.

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 3,600 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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