



# West\_MEC

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **West-MEC professor leads by example**

**(Sept. 21) Glendale, AZ** - Julie Ehrman, a dental assistant program instructor at Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) - a public career technical education district - took her job an extra step forward on Sept. 8. Ehrman received a biomimetic dental procedure, courtesy of Dr. John Upton at Arrowhead Dentistry in Glendale.

Ehrman, always looking for ways to improve her curriculum for students, took part in the unique procedure - Upton called it "minimally invasive dentistry" - that will hopefully last longer and be more effective than past methods of fixing cracks and breaks in a tooth. Ehrman took pictures the entire time, speaking with Upton about what exactly was happening, so that she could teach a lesson on the subject to her class down the road.

She said the best dental assistant students, ones that get lucrative jobs and climb the corporate ladder quickly, are eager to learn more about dentistry and be of service to the doctor or dental hygienist.

"We have to educate ourselves. The students should be interested in keeping their minds open to the newest techniques and information, whether they go into the science of dentistry, engineering or other lab work. That way you can open a lot of doors in an industry that is stable," Ehrman said.

Upton, in the process of creating a mold of Ehrman's tooth to later be used in further steps of the procedure, said the skills Ehrman hopes to teach in lessons like the biomimetic dentistry unit show motivation that can be used to impress dentists like him looking to hire new assistants after graduation.

"If you want to do this kind of dentistry, you have to have a step above the others: lifelong learning skills, dedication, and an interest in growth in your career," Upton said.

For more information on West-MEC's dental assisting program visit [west-mec.edu/dental-assisting](http://west-mec.edu/dental-assisting) or schedule a visit with a recruiter.

**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 3,800 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](http://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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