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Autumn Howarth Named as the 2025 Recipient of the Dr. John C. Foster Excellence National Award

BIG RAPIDS, MI - NOCTI is proud to announce Autumn Howarth as the 2025 recipient of the inaugural Dr. John C. Foster Excellence Award!

NOCTI, a national leader in credentials and assessment services for Career and Technical Education (CTE) launched this award in January 2025 to recognize exceptional achievement in CTE. The award honors students who demonstrate innovation, leadership, technical excellence, and community impact—reflecting Dr. Foster’s legacy and the transformative power of CTE.

With nearly 60 years of experience advancing CTE, NOCTI remains committed to highlighting the field’s role in preparing a skilled, adaptable workforce. Dr. Kathleen McNally, CEO of NOCTI/Nocti Business Solutions (NBS), shared: “We are thrilled to recognize Autumn as the first recipient of the John C. Foster Excellence Award. She embodies everything CTE stands for—leadership, service, and a passion for her craft. Celebrating students like Autumn helps elevate the impact of CTE.”

Autumn was nominated by Robert Brightbill, Building Construction Instructor at Dauphin County Technical School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. “Autumn has been in the Building Construction Program since her ninth-grade year. Since joining the program, she has volunteered in countless community service activities with her class and represented our program in various ways at multiple functions.” Brightbill shared. “She sets the standard for other students in our program to follow.”

Her nomination highlighted contributions such as restoring historic buildings in Wyoming, supporting disaster relief efforts nationwide, and volunteering with the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) to inspire young girls to explore skilled trades. Autumn now works at Pyramid Construction in Harrisburg, with aspirations of becoming a project manager—continuing to pave the way for others in the field.

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