Residents of Ada, Oklahoma will be seeing a new face around town. Kristen Baker from Sulphur, a student in Murray State College’s Veterinary Technology Program, has started her externship at Ada Veterinary Clinic. The externship is an 8 week-long program that is designed to give students real-world experience before they head out into the workforce. It is also a requirement for graduation from the program.

“Clinical externship is the culmination of a student’s Veterinary Technician education,” says Debbie Reed, Registered Veterinary Technician and Co-Director of the Murray State College Veterinary Technology Program. “It is the training ground where students are challenged to integrate all aspects of their education. This phase of training offers students the excitement and responsibility of applying the knowledge and skills they have learned.”

Under the guidance of Dr. Calvin White and his staff, Baker is getting hands on training in the care and handling of animals.

“My externship is going great and I am learning a lot from Dr. White,” she says. “I have always known I would have a career working with animals and my desire to help them and heal them lead me to this profession.”

Baker says the support from her family, including her parents Wayne and Jennie Baker, has been essential to her completion of Murray State College’s Veterinary Technician program. She also credits her instructors as a part of her support system.

“My teachers taught me everything I needed to know and guided me when I needed the help,” she says. “I also believe they will continue to help me learn and guide me when I ask for help or advice.”

As far as her future, Baker will be working with Dr. White until July 11. After that, she hopes to continue toward a career in equine medicine.

For more on the Murray State College Veterinary Technology Program, visit www.mscok.edu.