

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Tulare County Office of Education Participates in National Job Shadowing Initiative**

*Visalia:* On Friday, January 31, more than one million young people will begin their journey into workplaces across the country as part of the National Groundhog Job Shadow Kickoff 2003. The Tulare County Office of Education and local School-to-Career partners are pleased to be part of this national initiative, not just for the day, but throughout the year.

In Tulare County, more than 1500 students participate in Job Shadow programs annually. In addition to traditional short-term job shadow activities through local school and community-based projects, hundreds more Tulare County students participate in longer-term mentoring, internship, and work experience programs. These long-term programs help students develop an understanding for the opportunities and expectations of today's workplace.

“Career development is a life-long process that begins well before young adults set out to find their first job,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “The Tulare County Office of Education’s School-to-Career project helps match students with mentors who will introduce them to

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some of today's exciting career possibilities. Shadowing a workplace mentor can be an important first step for any student on the road to discovering his or her ultimate career," says Vidak.

Job shadowing is an academically motivating activity designed to give kids an up-close look at the world of work and an answer to the age-old question, "Why do I have to learn this?" Recognizing its worth, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations, government agencies and associations across the country have pledged their support for Groundhog Job Shadow 2003.

National Groundhog Job Shadow begins with a nationwide kickoff and continues through the school year. Students across America "shadow" workplace mentors through their work day. The students get to see firsthand how the skills learned in school relate to success in the workplace.

For more information on how you can become involved with local schools and youth-serving agencies, contact the Tulare County School-to-Career office at 733-6101.

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