

# 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: 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair Sequoia Mall – March 3-9, 2003**

The Tulare County Office of Education is pleased to host the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair which will be held March 3 – 9, 2003, at the Sequoia Mall during normal mall hours. This year, nearly 260 science projects representing approximately 40 schools in Tulare County will be on display for public viewing. Students in grades four through 12 submit projects for judging by science experts from the private and public sectors.

“The Science & Engineering Fair is a catalyst for students to explore so many areas of interest,” states Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “I’m encouraged to see how many of these projects put science to work in solving real-world issues like conservation, food production and communication.”

The Tulare County Science Fair is an affiliate of the California State Science Fair. As such, science fair projects from Tulare County selected by a team of Science Educators will continue on to the California State Science Fair. Last year the students that represented Tulare County at the California State Science Fair did extremely well, one Three Rivers student posted a third-place finish in the Behavior/Social Science category.

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# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

page 2

Students participating in the Science Fair will set up their projects on Monday, March 3, from 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Judging will take place that evening, with 18 Sweepstakes winners, five Agriculture Project winners and five Health Project winners identified. The students receiving a Sweepstakes Award from grades six through 12 will be interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators on Wednesday, March 5. The panel will select the top science fair projects to continue on to the State Science Fair.

March 4 and 5, students and community visiting the Science Fair display, will be able to vote for their favorite projects. Projects with the most votes will be awarded a "Community Choice Award." An Awards Ceremony to present plaques (Sweepstakes, Agriculture Project and Health Project) will be held Thursday, March 6, 2003, at 6:30 pm in the Center Court/Sequoia Mall. That evening an announcement identifying the top projects that will continue on to the California State Science Fair to represent Tulare County will be made.

“By developing skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, these talented students are laying the groundwork for future success,” states Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “I commend their hard work and dedication in preparing for this event.”

The projects will remain in the Sequoia Mall for public viewing through the weekend, and students may pick up their projects Sunday afternoon.

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# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

page 3

The Science & Engineering Fair was established to:

- Encourage independent research
- Promote the understanding and importance of science
- Be educational, rather than competitive
- Stimulate interest and support science and math education in our schools
- Promote and encourage scientific thinking
- Provide a public event to display the thinking and work of students
- Illustrate that science is a creative human endeavor
- Encourage students to study science, math and engineering as potential career areas
- Give public recognition to talented students for their work

For more information about this event, contact the Tulare County Science and Engineering Fair Coordinator, Jonathan Janzen, at 651-3043.

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