

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

July 15, 2003

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education announces:

**Tulare County Office of Education to host
Annual Partner Recognition Event**
Nationally acclaimed Author, Motivational Speaker and
Personal Developer, Jason Dorsey, is keynote speaker
July 16, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Visalia's Convention
Center

The Tulare County Office of Education, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, Tulare County Youth Coalition and other area partners will join together to recognize the outstanding contributions of area business, education and community leaders at the annual Partner Recognition event on July 16 at the Visalia Convention Center. With the addition of Coalition and Youth Council partners, this year's recognition categories will include career preparation, academic achievement, youth support and leadership.

The partner recognition event will feature Jason Dorsey as the keynoter. Dorsey, a 24-year-old motivational speaker who began his career at the age of 18, believes his mission in life is to help people of all ages to overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams. One of the most highly sought after young speakers in America, Dorsey is also the author of two nationally acclaimed books, Graduate to Your Perfect Job and Ending School Violence: Solutions from America's Youth.

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Dorsey says his decision to become a motivational speaker was directed by the realization that everyone needs someone with whom they can relate.

“I have seen my message give people the courage to make the right choices for a better future. I am passionate about helping people tackle tough issues head-on to become more resilient. My main message is "No More Excuses!™" and with that I teach people of all ages to influence their future by throwing away their limiting excuses and taking more responsibility for their actions. It's simple and it works,” says Dorsey.

“Jason Dorsey is an exciting guest speaker for this year’s School-to-Career partner recognition luncheon,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Dorsey is an outstanding symbol of what young people can accomplish in our world today,” Vidak adds.

The Partner Recognition luncheon is sponsored by the Tulare County Office of Education, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board, Inc., Tulare County Youth Council, the Tulare County Workforce Coalition, Tulare County Federal Credit Union, The Region 7 Youth Connection Program and the Tulare County Youth Coalition.

The following individuals, companies, agencies, and schools will be honored for their contributions:

1. Mary Kathryn (Kathy) Contreras, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tulare County
2. Bob Tiemens, Vocational Specialist, Visalia Unified School District

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3. Mague Corvera, Family Health Care Network
4. Carolyn Kehrli, Ed.D, Cutler/Orosi Unified School District
5. Keith Reynolds, Architect/Owner, Affiliation TAE Architecture and Planning
6. Valerie Simonich, Tulare County Child Support Services
7. College of the Sequoias Foundation
8. CIGNA
9. Paramount Agribusiness Companies
10. Don Brinkman, Principal, Exeter Union High School
11. Lisa Munoz, Community Services and Employment Training (C-SET)
12. John Alvarez
13. Visalia Unified School District School-to-Career Coordinators
 - Les Huber
 - Elaine Rubio
 - Rosemary Perez
14. Gordon Jones, Roche School
15. Karen Michigan, Visalia YMCA
16. Visalia Chamber of Commerce
17. Craig Wight, Mt. Whitney High School
18. Marshall's Department Store
19. Janet Giles, Sequoia Family Medical Center
20. Kathy Glenn, UC Davis Vet Center
21. Tulare Nursing and Rehabilitation Hospital (TNRH)
22. Joann Luna, Jack In The Box

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23. Dan Ramirez, Proteus Inc.
24. Russ Brandt, Frazier High School
25. Dennis Conner, Woodlake High School
26. Mark Taylor, Walmart
27. Deana Craighead, College of the Sequoias
28. Steve Hefflefinger, Tulare Physical Therapy
29. Tulare County Probation
 - Shannon Oliver
 - George Luna
 - Louie Thomas

For information about Tulare County Office of Education, please contact Pamela Kunze, public information officer, at 559-733-6606 or visit our website at www.tcoe.org.

For information on attending this event contact Randy Wallace, Tulare County Office of Education's School-to-Career project director at (559) 733-6101. The luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on July 16 at the Convention Center in Visalia. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. To register online for the event, go to www.tcoe.org/careerweb.

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