

# 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: Building Job Shadowing/Career Connection for Local Students**

*Tulare County:* On Monday February 2, over one million young people will begin their journey into workplaces across the country as part of the National Groundhog Job Shadow Kickoff 2004. In anticipation, numerous businesses, schools, non-profits, government agencies and associations across the country are pledging their support for Groundhog Job Shadow 2004. 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 annually participate in Job Shadow activities. In addition to traditional, short-term job shadow activities and community-based projects, thousands of Tulare County students participate in mentoring, internship, and work experience programs which further develop an understanding for the opportunities and expectations of today's workplace.

Job shadowing is an academically motivating activity designed to give kids an up-close look at the world of work and to answer the question, "Why do I have to learn this?" Beginning with a nationwide kickoff and continuing throughout the school year, students across America "shadow" workplace mentors as they go through a normal day on the job. The students get to see firsthand

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how the skills learned in school relate to the workplace. Job Shadowing is led by the National Job Shadow Coalition and is supported through a national sponsorship by Monster.com and co-sponsorship by News Corporation.

“Career development is a life-long process that begins 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 and area schools are excited to help match students with mentors who will introduce them to some of the career possibilities available today,” Vidak continues. “Shadowing a workplace mentor can be an important first step for any student and is an experience you don't want to miss,” says Vidak.

For information about the Tulare County Office of Education, please visit our website at [www.tcoe.org](http://www.tcoe.org) or call the public information office at 559-733-6606. For more information on job shadowing activities and how you can become involved with local schools and youth-serving agencies, contact the Tulare County School-to-Career office at 559-733-6101.

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