

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Pamela Kunze
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606
cell: 559/901-3445

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Fourth Annual *Expanding Your Horizons* Conference

College of the Sequoias – February 28, 2004

For the fourth consecutive year, the Tulare County Office of Education and College of the Sequoias will host “Expanding Your Horizons” (EYH), a student event designed to encourage young women in grades four through 12 to explore careers in the fields of mathematics, technology, science and engineering. The conference showcases math and science-related fields in innovative and interesting ways and will be held February 28 at College of the Sequoias.

This year, Dr. Martina Newell-McGloughlin, Director of the University of California’s Systemwide Biotechnology Research & Education Program, will deliver the morning keynote address to more than 350 conference attendees. Dr. Newell-McGloughlin says her interest in science began at a young age in Galway, Ireland, when “the nuns told me on my first day at secondary school (high school) that this was an unsuitable subject for girls and we should all opt for home economics.” McGoughlin excelled in physics and chemistry and continued to focus on science throughout college. Professor McGloughlin feels that her most important job is to help people understand biotechnology and to answer questions.

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Following the morning address by Dr. McGloughlin, hands-on workshops and sessions will be taught by professional women from throughout the state. Young women can explore careers and opportunities throughout science and math fields by attending workshops such as, “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun with Science,” “Want to be a Veterinarian?,” and “Mutant Flies as Research Tools.”

Attendance at the conference provides opportunities for young women to form personal contacts with women who are working in professions traditionally held by men, and to meet other students who are interested in math and science.

"I am proud to once again host Expanding Your Horizons. The purpose of the conference is to explain options and expand opportunities for our students that they may have not otherwise considered," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "It's important for young women to not only hear about careers based in math and science, but also to identify with the women who are leading the way in these fields. EYH presents outstanding opportunities for both," Vidak explains.

For additional information about the Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, contact Pamela Kunze, Tulare County Office of Education Public Information Officer,

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at 559-733-6606. For information about the Expanding Your Horizons conference, contact Lori Harding or Julie Joseph of Tulare County Office of Education's Educational Resource Services at 559-651-3641/3031.

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