

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:

GIANT TECH PREP EXPO 2004

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Place of Event: College of the Sequoias (COS) Campus

Time of Event: Competitions from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Awards Ceremony at 12:45 p.m.

The Kings and Tulare County Office of Educations' School-to-Career programs are collaborating to host the seventh annual Giant Tech Prep EXPO at the College of the Sequoias. More than 700 high school students will compete in 32 academic and trade competitions. EXPO competitions provide students with an opportunity to gain recognition for their skills at the high school level. Competitions also promote student participation in career and technical education programs within the community.

The main focus of EXPO is to expose middle and high school students to the college experience and educate them about the kinds of programs and services offered by local educational institutions. COS students and staff will give tours and provide information about COS opportunities.

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Middle school students will be provided with interactive career pathway information and will have special programming to include campus tours given by COS students. Approximately 200 students are expected to participate. Programming will conclude with awards and recognition in the COS Quad area.

Sponsors for the event include: Tulare County Office of Education, COS Tech Prep Consortium, Kings County Office of Education, Kings County SchoolWork Program, Kings County ROP, Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education ROP (TCOVE), Tulare County School-to-Career, Visalia Unified School District, and West Hills College Tech Prep Consortium.

"The Giant Tech Prep EXPO is a great event and is an especially valuable experience for middle school students as they begin to think about their futures beyond high school," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

"This annual event gets students excited about College of the Sequoias and the many opportunities that exist," says Kris Costa, COS Tech Prep coordinator. "Our students really look forward to hosting local schools for a day," says Costa.

GIANT TECH PREP EXPO SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Competitions - length of competitions will vary Middle School tours
10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Demonstrations, Activity and Campus Food Booths
12:45 p.m.	Awards Ceremony
2:00 p.m.	Conclusion

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For additional information about the Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, visit our website at www.tcoe.org or call the public information office at 559-733-6606. More information on Giant Tech Prep EXPO is available from its website at www.giantexpo.org.

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