

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

September 7, 2004

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Robert Herman  
Public Information Officer  
559/733-6606

## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Collaborative Leadership Institute Forms Second Cohort**

The Collaborative Leadership Institute (CLI) is a project of the Tulare County Office of Education funded by First Five Tulare County. The purpose of CLI is to ensure the continuing vitality of child services providers in Tulare County by identifying and developing emerging leaders, and motivating them to work together. The Collaborative Leadership Institute is directed by Barry Sommer, Educational Psychologist, MFT, and director of Student and Family Services at Pixley Union School District.

“As we examined the future of children’s services in Tulare County, it became clear to us that a high percent of agency directors are reaching retirement age,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Many of these individuals have been dedicated to their work for decades with no clear plan for secession. I’m delighted with the vision of the Collaborative Leadership Institute to identify and mentor future leaders in the area of children’s healthcare, education and social services.”

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A core component of the Institute is the leadership project. Each CLI cohort is responsible for developing a project that demonstrates mastery of standards in leadership and collaboration in the field of children's services. The project, which benefits young children and their families, is based on significant agreements and partnerships, and demand the application of leadership skills.

## **Members of the 2004 – 2005 Collaborative Leadership Institute include:**

Elvira Barron  
Tulare County Office of Education Child Care Program

Merced Doria  
Lindsay Unified School District

Jose S. Garcia  
Pixley Union School

Cyndee Garcia  
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Jaime Lynch  
CASA of Tulare County

Vicky Medina  
Central Valley Regional Center

Wally Parks  
Visalia Youth Services

Lori Perigo  
Burton School District

Anacelis Rodriguez  
Tulare County Hispanic Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services, Inc.

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Brad Rohrback  
Strathmore Unified Schools

Tina Sandoval  
Tulare County Office of Education, Child Care Program

Deborah Tobias-Gatewood  
Synchrony of Visalia, Inc.

Tracy Tucker  
Burton School District

Cathy Volpa  
Tulare County Health & Human Services

Time Zavala  
Tulare Youth Service Bureau

For more information on the Collaborative Leadership Institute, contact Barry Sommer at 757-3131, extension 106.

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