

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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559/733-6606

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: 2004 Tulare County College Night Featured Presentations 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. • Monday, September 13, 2004 • Visalia Convention Center

Visalia: The Tulare County Office of Education will present its annual Tulare County College Night on Monday, September 13, 2004. College Night is designed for high school students and parents who want to learn more about preparing for and applying to colleges. The Visalia Convention Center's Exhibit Hall will be filled with more than 70 university and college representatives who will answer questions about entrance requirements, tuition and housing. Financial aid and scholarship information will also be available. Admission is free.

Throughout the evening, visitors may attend presentations and panel discussions to learn about financial aid opportunities, college admissions and transfers, and campus life. Select presentations will be offered for Spanish-speaking parents. This year, presentations include:

Writing the Private College Essay and the UC Personal Statement

What makes an effective college essay or personal statement? How important is it? Participants will hear tips on how to write a unique and effective college essay or personal statement for their private college or UC applications. Presenters will also cover changes to the UC personal statement and its effect on this year's graduating high school seniors.

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7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in Charter Oak C

Presenters: Aleksey Tyannikov, Admissions Counselor at Fresno Pacific University
 Eunique Johnson, Student Affairs Officer at UC Merced

Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities: Planning for Admission

Planning for college admission can be a confusing and overwhelming process. This session for high school students and their parents will explain eligibility requirements, the application process and show students how to navigate the CSU and UC systems admissions process.

7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in San Joaquin A

Presenters: Enrique Guzman, Student Affairs Officer at UC Merced

 Frances Pena-Olgin, University Outreach Services Coordinator CSU Fresno

Applying to Selective Private Colleges: Keys to Success

College admission is becoming more and more competitive and, nowhere, is that more true than at private institutions. Attend this session to learn how to navigate the private college admissions process and how to become a more competitive private college applicant.

7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in San Joaquin B

Presenter: Mathew Sargent

, Admissions Counselor at Stanford University

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Funding Your College Education: A Financial Aid Session

This session will explore the ABC's of financial aid, including college costs, financial aid eligibility, the application process and important dates to keep in mind. Along the way, the presenters will explain the various forms of financial aid.

7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in Charter Oak A

Presenters: Korey Compaan, Financial Aid Director, Fresno Pacific University
 Casandra Ledesma, Financial Aid Outreach Program Specialist at COS
 Bernie Ogden, Planning Coordinator at CSU Fresno

"Where's the Money?" Scholarship Opportunities

Tailored for parents and students, this session will focus on scholarships and financial aid. Learn how to obtain scholarships and how they fit into the financial aid picture. This session will debunk myths about how to pay for college and will explore the meaning of basic financial aid terms such as “expected family contribution” and “financial need.”

7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in Charter Oak B

Presenter: Lori Stohl, English Department Faculty/AVID at Orosi High School

SAT & ACT Preparation: What do I do?

What role does standardized testing play in the college admissions process? What is the difference between the ACT and the SAT? How should students and parents prepare for these tests? This session will answer these questions as well as explore changes to the SAT, which will affect high school seniors graduating in 2005.

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7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in San Joaquin C

Presenters: Patrick O'Brien, ACT Ambassador

Cyndy McDonald, Regional Consultant Central Valley AVID

Planning for Your Education (Spanish Language Presentation)

7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in San Joaquin D

Presenter: Efrain Tovar, Electronic Admissions Counselor at Fresno Pacific University

CAMP: The College Assistance Migrant Program at Fresno State

CAMP is a federally funded program designed to provide support to first-year university students from migrant and seasonal farm worker families. Attend this session to learn about the program's academic and career planning services, in addition to the many activities that CAMP students are eligible to participate in.

8:20 to 9:00 p.m. in San Joaquin D

Presenter: Eddie Rodriguez, Outreach Coordinator CSU Fresno CAMP

Panel: What I Wish I'd Known Before Going to College

Guided by a moderator, this informal question and answer session will give high school students an opportunity to talk to their peers about the college experience. The topics covered will be determined by the types of questions asked by those in attendance.

8:20 to 9:00 p.m. in San Joaquin C

Moderator: Sondra Rester, Student Program Mgr. at Tulare County Child Support Services

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Students and parents may access www.tcoe.org/collegenight for links to university web sites, financial aid and test preparation sites. For more information, contact Robert Herman at 559-733-6606.

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