

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

February 23, 2005

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair Sequoia Mall – February 28 – March 6, 2005**

The annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held February 28 – March 6, 2005, at the Sequoia Mall during normal mall hours. This year, over 200 science projects representing approximately 25 schools in Tulare County will be on display for public viewing. Students will compete in ten categories this year, including: Behavioral and Social Sciences; Botany; Earth and Space; Engineering and Mathematics; Environmental Science; Medicine and Health; Microbiology and Biochemistry; Physical Science; Product Testing and Materials Science; and Zoology.

“The Science and Engineering Fair is a catalyst for students to explore many different areas of interest,” states Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “I’m encouraged to see how many of these projects put science to work in solving real-world issues like conservation, food production and communication.”

Students in grades four through 12 submit projects for judging by science experts from the private and public sectors. Students participating in the Science Fair will set up their projects on Monday, February 28, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Judging will take place that evening, with the top 20 projects identified as “Sweepstakes Winners.” Besides the Sweepstakes Winners, The Gas Company® will

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present a special Environmental Vision Award. Students in grades six through 12, who receive a Sweepstakes Award, will be interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators on Wednesday, March 2. The panel will then select the top science fair projects to continue on to the State Science Fair.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 1 and 2, community members visiting the Sequoia Mall will be able to vote for their favorite projects. Projects with the most votes will be awarded a "Community Choice Award." An awards ceremony will be held Thursday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Center Court/Sequoia Mall. Deserving student scientists will be awarded plaques in each of the following areas: Sweepstakes, Environment and Community Choice Awards. Additionally, those projects that will continue on to the California State Science Fair will also be announced. Students and teachers responsible for the best project in each of the ten competition categories will receive a cash prize awarded by the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation.

For information about Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, contact the Public Information office at (559) 733-6606 or visit our website at [www.tcoe.org](http://www.tcoe.org). For more information about the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Science and Engineering Fair, contact Jonathan Janzen, Science Consultant, at 651-3043.

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