

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

April 4, 2005

For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
559.733.6606
559.901.3445

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Superintendent Vidak Wins Charles Binderup Award

Visalia – On Friday, April 1, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak received the Charles Binderup Award – an award presented annually by the Small School Districts Association (SSDA). The award, which is given for exemplary California school leadership, was presented at the SSDA’s 22nd Annual Conference. It was named in honor of a much respected superintendent who served SSDA on its Executive Committee. Mr. Vidak, the first County Superintendent of Schools to receive this award, was chosen for his vision, integrity and dedication to our public education system.

Mr. Vidak, who has been Tulare County Superintendent of Schools since January 1991, supports 46 school districts and College of the Sequoias with a variety of business, personnel, instructional support and special education services. Tulare County has a high concentration of small school districts – over 80% of the county’s districts have less than 2,500 students. “I’m proud of Tulare County Office of Education’s history in serving our many fine small school districts,” says Mr. Vidak. “This award is a direct reflection on the commitment to service shared by every employee of the Tulare County Office of Education.”

- more -

Tulare County
Office of Education
Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

John Manning, superintendent of the Palo Verde Elementary School District, says of Mr. Vidak: “It is apparent that Mr. Vidak has earned the respect of all – including district superintendents of both small and large schools. He is probably unaware of the positive impact he has to those such as myself and other people who look up to him for guidance and support.”

Under Mr. Vidak’s leadership, the Tulare County Office of Education has expanded its support of small school districts with new or expanded programs including: Regional Teacher Recruitment Center; Character Counts!; the TCOE Theatre Company; the Gang Prevention Program; SCICON, Educational Resource Services on-line curriculum services; Child Care centers; La Sierra Charter High School and many others.

-TCOE-

Rel 21/05