

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: 2005 *Excellence in Education Award* Winners Announced

*Tulare County Administrator/Manager of the Year Tulare County Teacher of the Year
Tulare County School Employee of the Year*

A selection committee of 15 Tulare County business, community and educational leaders met recently to choose the Tulare County Administrator/Manager of the Year, Teacher of the Year and School Employee of the Year for 2005. The *Excellence in Education Awards*, now in celebrating its 11th year, recognizes "the best of the best" in the three categories.

Applications are reviewed and scored individually by every member of the committee. "It is a painstaking process, but it ultimately produces the worthiest individuals," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "We are delighted with the participation and appreciate the efforts Tulare County schools invest in honoring each and every nominee," Mr. Vidak adds. The Tulare County Office of Education and County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak are pleased to announce the following *Excellence in Education Award* winners:

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Teacher of the Year

Jeff Cozad, a science teacher at Porterville High School, was chosen as the 2005 Tulare County Teacher of the Year. A Porterville High staff member for 32 years, he works collaboratively with other organizations to promote the "science experience." His involvement with Porterville College helped to acquire and maintain the SMART Lab, a mobile laboratory that travels to schools throughout the county.

Administrator/Manager of the Year

Rick Mitchell, administrator of the Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation School of Science and Conversation (SCICON), was named Administrator/Manager of the Year. The administrator of this outdoor education program since 1990, Mr. Mitchell was selected for his leadership and vision in expanding the program, building community support and accommodating Tulare County students.

School Employee of the Year

Glenna Haley, an RSP Instructional Aide at Mulcahy Middle School in Tulare, is the 2005 School Employee of the Year. Mrs. Haley has been a valued employee of the Tulare City School District for 30 years and a dedicated member of the Mulcahy staff since 1979. She has devoted herself to a career of assisting students with challenging academic and social needs.

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Finalists

Teacher of the Year

Kirk Clague, Exeter High School

Sandy Guy, Wilson School, Tulare

Administrator/Manager of the Year

Vern Barlogio, Principal, Tulare Western High School

Lorenzo Cruz, Principal, John J. Doyle Elementary, Porterville

School Employee of the Year

Barbara Whitfield, Vandalia School, Porterville

Alice Randall, Principal's Secretary, El Diamante HS, Visalia

Summary

“We wish to thank our partners in the program, the Educational Employee Credit Union, its President/CEO Bruce Barnett, and board of directors,” says Jim Vidak. “I’m proud that for 11 years we have been able to celebrate the accomplishments of the talented men and women who devote their lives to educating children and young adults in Tulare County.”

Award recipients and finalists will be honored at a recognition breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. on October 12, 2005 at the Visalia Convention Center. For more information, contact Darlynn Billingsley at 733-6302.

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