

# 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 To Be Honored Tomorrow Morning, October 12.**

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

Nearly 400 friends, family members and colleagues will gather Wednesday morning, October 12, 2005, at the Visalia Convention Center, to honor the nominees, finalists and winners of the 2005 Tulare County Excellence in Education Awards. The program – now in its eleventh year – recognizes the Tulare County Administrator/Manager of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and School Employee of the Year. This year, a total of 37 nominees from 15 Tulare County school districts and the College of the Sequoias participated in competition, which was judged in May, 2005.

The highlight of the invitation-only breakfast event – which is co-hosted by the Educational Employees Credit Union – is a video presentation highlighting the three winners. The film features tributes by colleagues, students and parents, plus interviews with each winner. "The film is a great way to get to know the winners," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

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“It’s a touching tribute to the men and women who have dedicated their life’s work to students of Tulare County.”

The Tulare County Office of Education and County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak are pleased to announce the following *Excellence in Education Award* winners:

The 2005 Tulare County **Administrator/Manager of the Year is Rick Mitchell**, the administrator for Tulare County Office of Education’s outdoor education program, SCICON. Mr. Mitchell was selected for his leadership and vision in building community support and accommodating Tulare County students. In 1978, he received a Bachelor of Science degree and Multiple Subjects Teaching credential from California State University, Fresno, as well as a Masters degree in 1994. Rick and his wife, Randy, have two wonderful daughters, Ellen and Cori.

A Porterville High School Biology and Life Science teacher, **Jeff Cozad is the 2005 Tulare County Teacher of the Year**. A Porterville High faculty member since 1973, Mr. Cozad obtained his Bachelor of Science degree and his Masters from California State Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. He has spent the last 33 years developing a large collection of animal species and wood carvings. He notes: “It is my hope that I have been the inspiration to my students that my teachers in high school were to me.”

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**Glenna Haley is the 2005 Tulare County School Employee of the Year.** Employed by the Tulare City Elementary School District for 30 years, Glenna was an Instructional Aide at Mulcahy Middle School until her retirement in June. As a Special Education aide, she devoted her career to assisting students with challenging academic and social needs. She received an Associate of Arts degree from Bakersfield Junior College and was a licensed vocational nurse.

## **Finalists**

### Teacher of the Year

Kirk Clague, Exeter High School

Sandy Guy, Wilson School, Tulare City Elementary

### 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, Instructional Assistant, Vandalia School, Porterville

Alice Randall, Principal's Secretary, El Diamante High School, Visalia

For more information on the Excellence in Education program, visit [www.tcoe.org/specialevents](http://www.tcoe.org/specialevents).

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