

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606
cell 559/901-3445

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Community Technology Foundation of California Grant Given to Ticket-to-Work Program

Visalia – The Tulare County Office of Education is pleased to announce that its Services for Education and Employment (SEE) program was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant funded by the Community Technology Foundation of California (CTFC). The Community Technology Foundation of California helps underserved communities secure social justice, access and equity through the application of information and communications technologies. The purpose of this grant is to increase access and employment for persons with disabilities in the San Joaquin Valley. The funds will be used to enhance SEE's Ticket-to-Work Program called "A Ticket to Success."

SEE contracted with the Social Security Administration as an Employment Network for the national program that began in California in November 2003. Employment Networks assist persons on Social Security disability who want to return to the workforce.

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Since beginning the program, SEE has had more successful employment outcomes of any other Employment Network in California. “Since October is Disability Awareness Month, it seems fitting that we announce the grant award and our success in helping over 75 persons with disabilities become more self-sufficient through employment,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We are delighted to have the support of CTFC to expand our ability to reach people seeking employment in outlying Central Valley areas.”

SEE will use some of these funds to purchase wireless technology to serve clients who are unable to come in to their offices in Visalia and Fresno. SEE was chosen for the CTFC grant because of its success in getting the program running and demonstrating the capability to succeed and expand.

For more information on the Ticket-to-Work program, call (800) 540-0307, or visit

www.tcoe.org/tickettowork

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