

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

February 27, 2006

## **For Immediate Release**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Annual Anti-Tobacco Challenge Bowl**

**February 28, 2006 • 9:00 am – 3:00 pm • Elderwood Room, 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia**

Twenty teams of sixth graders will participate in the annual Anti-Tobacco Challenge Bowl February 28. The competition, co-hosted by the Tulare County Office of Education, American Cancer Society and Health & Human Services Agency Tobacco Control Project, is designed to prevent tobacco use in adolescence through education. Large and small Tulare County schools will participate with teams of five members each.

The Challenge Bowl is run in a game-show style format of quick recall and response. Prior to the competition, schools have several weeks to prepare students and infuse their curriculum with tobacco education. "Student teams compete against each other by answering questions about everything from the tobacco industry to the health effects of smoking," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "It's a fun and educational competition loaded with valuable information for students at a critical point in their lives — before entering middle school where some will be presented with the temptation to use tobacco."

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The competition portion of the event lasts from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., with a break for lunch and a special motivational speaker. Gift certificates will be given to each member of the top three teams. Last year's Challenge Bowl champion was Mountain View Elementary in Visalia.

For more information, please contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer at (559) 733-6606.

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