

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: 21st Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair Sequoia Mall – March 20 – 26, 2006

The annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 20 - 26, 2006, at the Sequoia Mall during normal mall hours. This year, over 200 science projects representing approximately 25 schools in Tulare County will be on display for public viewing. Students will compete in ten categories this year, including: Behavioral and Social Sciences; Botany; Earth and Space; Engineering and Mathematics; Environmental Science; Medicine and Health; Microbiology and Biochemistry; Physical Science; Product Testing and Materials Science; and Zoology.

“The most impressive thing about the Science and Engineering Fair is how serious our students are in working to solve real-world issues,” states Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

“Whether the project involves engineering, medicine, agriculture or environmental science, the results creatively address the challenges we will face in the future.”

Students in grades four through 12 submit projects for judging by science experts from the private and public sectors. Students participating in the Science Fair will set up their projects on Monday, March 20, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Judging will take place that evening, with the top 20 projects identified as “Sweepstakes Winners.” Students in grades six through 12, who receive a Sweepstakes Award, will be

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interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators on Wednesday, March 22. The panel will then select the top eight science fair projects to continue on to the State Science Fair. Besides the Sweepstakes Winners, The Gas Company® will present a special Environmental Vision Award.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 21 and 22, community members visiting the Sequoia Mall can vote for their favorite projects. Projects with the most votes will be awarded a "Community Choice Award." An awards ceremony will be held Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Center Court/Sequoia Mall. Deserving student scientists will be awarded plaques in each of the following areas: Sweepstakes, Environment and Community Choice Awards. Additionally, those projects that will continue on to the California State Science Fair will be announced. Students responsible for the top three projects in each of the ten competition categories will receive a cash prize awarded by Science Fair sponsors and the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation. Those awards include: \$100 to both the student and his or her teacher for the top project in each category; \$75 to the student only for the second place project in each category; and \$50 to the student only for the third place project in each category.

For information about Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, contact the Public Information office at (559) 733-6606 or visit: www.tcoe.org. For more information about the 21st Annual Science and Engineering Fair, contact Jonathan Janzen, Science Consultant, at 651-3043.

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