

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

April 26, 2006

For Immediate Release

**The Kremen School of Education and Human Development (KSOEHD) & Its
Bonner Center for Character Education present the:**

22nd Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education

April 18, 2006 · Fresno Convention Center · 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Six Tulare County Elementary Schools to Be Honored

(contact information at the bottom of this release)

The 22nd Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education will be held on April 28 at the Fresno Convention Center, Exhibit Hall (Ernest Valdez Hall) – from 7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The conference is a yearly event required of all Fresno State student teachers. The purpose of the conference is:

- 1) to provide prospective teachers with information on a number of local civic agencies devoted to assisting children and families with life's issues and concerns, and
- 2) to provide them with a number of important concepts and considerations related to the ethical implications of what professional educators do in a service community.

Local agencies will provide information about the nature of their programs, how their work affects K-12 populations, and how teachers can access and utilize the services described. Many of our own KSOEHD faculty will present workshops regarding professional ethics from the vantage of their sub-specialties.

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For the first time, student teachers from Fresno Pacific University and their professors will join with students and faculty from Fresno State for this conference. Two FPC faculty will be presenting workshops in addition to many Fresno State faculty and representatives of public agencies.

A highlight of the conference is the presentation of the **19th Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Awards** to exemplary local schools. Presentations of awards to 15 exemplary elementary schools will be made at the First General Session to begin at 8:00 a.m.

Two **keynote speakers** will address the group. **The first (8:00 a.m.) is Dr. Hal Urban**, a teacher of character education and recipient of the 2005 Sanford N. McDonnell *Award for Lifetime Achievement in Character Education* presented by the Character Education Partnership of Washington, DC. Dr. Urban is the author of three books, including the best seller: *Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things That Matter*. His topic will be: "*Powerful Words, Powerful Results*".

The keynote speakers at the Second General Session will be two exemplary local educators. Mr. Jeff Cozad is the Teacher of the Year for Tulare County and Ms. Jeanne Cox is the Special Education Teacher of the year for Fresno County. Both will speak at 12:15 p.m.

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Significant information about this conference:

1. The Kremen School's *Conference on Character and Civic Education* is the longest running character education conference in the United States. It is provided free of charge for student teachers from both Fresno State and Fresno Pacific University.
2. The Bonner Center's *Virtues and Character Recognition Award* is the longest running award program in character education in the United States. Now in its 19th year.
3. Ms. Katie Zenovich of Fresno State's Development office is the Mistress of Ceremonies.
4. Sponsors of the conference include: The Kremen School of Education and Human Development, the Fresno County Office of Education, the Tulare County Office of Education, Educational Employees Credit Union, California Geographic Alliance (San Joaquin Valley), the Bonner Family Foundation.
5. Schools receiving the Virtues and Character Recognition Award include:

Burton Elementary School (Burton Elementary)

Michelle Pengilly, Principal

Centerville School (Sanger Unified)

Lisa Houston, Principal

Fancher Creek Elementary School (Clovis Unified)

Rosie Rivera-Borjas, Principal

Francis J. White Learning Center (Woodlake Union)

J. Terrence Keller, Principal

James K. Polk Elementary School (Central Unified)

Karen Garlick, Principal

Jefferson Elementary School (Sanger Unified)

Matt Navo, Principal

John S. Wash Elementary School (Sanger Unified)

Wesley Sever, Principal

McKinley Elementary School (Central Unified)

Eliseo Cuellar, Principal

Monte Vista Elementary School (Porterville Unified)

Carol Woodley, Principal

Oak Grove School (Burton Elementary)

Mick Bishop, Principal

Roosevelt Elementary School (Central Unified)

Danny Teevens, Principal

River Bluff Elementary School (Central Unified)

Brett Wolfe, Principal

Sanger Academy Charter School (Sanger Unified)

Ken Garcia, Principal

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Sante Fe Elementary School (Porterville Unified)
Angel Valdez, Principal

Vandalia Elementary School (Porterville Unified)
Lissa Lambie, Principal

6. **Contact Information**

Dr. Paul Beare, Dean
Kremen School of Education and Human Development
CSU Fresno
278-0210

Dr. Jacques Benninga, Director
Bonner Center for character Education, CSU Fresno
278-0253

Ms. Jan Moosoolian, Co-Chair
Conference on Character and Civic Education
278-0115

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