

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:

Tulare County Board of Education Awards SCICON Bid

In a special meeting of the Tulare County Board of Education this morning, trustees voted unanimously to award a \$2,960,800 construction contract for a new student village at SCICON to Sequoia Construction. SCICON is the outdoor education program of the Tulare County Office of Education. The project will include six student cabins, student restrooms and showers, a meeting arbor, staff/teacher housing and an outdoor amphitheater. The New Village is designed to accommodate approximately two classes of 70 students at a time. These students will have their own trail guides and attend their own evening programs, but will join the other SCICON students in the John Muir Lodge for meals. "This is a history-making moment for the SCICON program," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "The construction of the New Village ensures that we can continue to serve 100 percent of the Tulare County student population at the premier school of outdoor education in California."

Planning for the new student village began with input from a group of district superintendents just a few years ago to address the growing student population in Tulare County. In the fall of 2004, SCICON director Rick Mitchell brought a vision for the New Village to the Tulare County Board

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of Education, which was enthusiastically received. That same year, a large donation for the construction of the village was given by an anonymous source through the efforts of County Superintendent Jim Vidak and members of the board. “This project has come together very quickly thanks to early planning and the support of community members who recognize the extraordinary learning experiences offered at SCICON,” says Mr. Vidak.

“We are hoping to begin construction in a few weeks, anticipating that we may be able host our first group of students next spring,” says SCICON director Rick Mitchell.

For further information on Tulare County Office of Education programs, visit www.tcoe.org, or call Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at (559) 733-6606. For more information on SCICON, contact Rick Mitchell at (559) 539-2642

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