

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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Media Alert

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

**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:
Educators of the Year to be Honored at the 13th Annual
Confucius' Birthday Celebration at Chinese Cultural Center
September 28, 2006 • 6:00 p.m. • Chinese Cultural Center • 500 S. Akers St., Visalia**

Colleagues, family members and dignitaries invited to the Thirteenth Annual Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Celebration, September 28, will join in honoring three of Tulare County's best teachers. The ceremony – which will be held at the Central California Chinese Cultural Center in Visalia – continues the long tradition of celebrating teachers on the birthday of China's great educator — Confucius. “Each year, we have the privilege of recognizing three outstanding teachers for their compassion, creativity and dedication,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “This year's honorees have these traits and more, and have earned a place along with the past recipients reserved for great teachers.”

Each year, the Tulare County Office of Education and the Chinese Cultural Center work together to select one elementary, one middle and one high school teacher for the honor. This year's honorees include: Nona Wilson from Earlimart Middle School; William “Bill” Fulmer of

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Monson-Sultana Elementary; and Carol Tuttle-Pilling from Farmersville High School. Each spoke of the high value they have for students and their drive to see that they succeed.

Nona Wilson, a sixth-grade science teacher at Earlimart Middle School, graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Music and earned a teaching credential from California State University, Fresno. An employee of the Earlimart Elementary School District for the past 12 years, Nona also taught at Lincoln School in Tulare, in Tulare City School District's GATE program and served as director of Children's Ministries at Tulare's First Baptist Church. Mrs. Wilson strives to respect and honor every student and make the learning process fun. One student told her after working on a science task: "Mrs. Wilson, you mean it's time to go home? Boy, time sure flies when you're having fun."

An employee of the Monson-Sultana Joint Union Elementary School District since 1977, Bill Fulmer currently teaches in a seventh- and eighth-grade self-contained classroom, but has also taught fifth and sixth grades plus served in an administrative role as vice principal and principal. Attending Visalia schools during his early years, Bill graduated from College of the Sequoias with an Associate of Arts degree in 1963 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from California State University, Fresno in 1972. He also holds a Masters degree in School Administration from Fresno Pacific University. Mr. Fulmer proudly served as

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a U.S. Army helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, and before pursuing a career in education, flew helicopters in several states, including Alaska.

Carol Tuttle-Pilling is a mathematics teacher at Farmersville High School who also teaches courses in Computer Technology, Webpage Design and is the high school's Technology Coordinator. She holds two Masters degrees from Fresno Pacific University – one in Mathematics and the other in Technology. She believes that a teacher's job is to provide guidance, encouragement and support and that helping students find their strengths and setting high expectations gives them the ability to reach their goals. She says that students must have good role models to help them prepare for the real world they will soon enter.

For more information please contact Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606.

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