

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 Office of Education to Host Ninth Annual CyberQuest Media Festival

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Saturday, November 18, 2006 • Visalia Convention Center

Tulare County Office of Education is hosting its ninth annual CyberQuest competition Saturday, November 18. Students across the county are preparing for the event by sharpening their research and computer skills. The competition is open to the public and will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the Visalia Convention Center.

CyberQuest is a technology-based competition that gives teams of students, in grades 3 – 12, the opportunity to consider complex issues, solve problems and communicate solutions with the use of multi-media presentations. This year's theme – "Our Puzzling Planet" – focuses on environmental issues. On October 30, Tulare County teachers and CyberQuest coaches received the presentation scenarios for their students. Once teachers/coaches receive the scenarios, they have three weeks to help students conduct research on the topic, guide them in building a presentation and rehearse for the big day. The scenarios are hypothetical problems built around this year's theme and tailored to student teams in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 –12.

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The scenarios, which include grade-appropriate curriculum, can be viewed on-line at www.tcoe.org/cyberquest. Nearly 400 students are expected to participate.

To prepare for their presentations, teams gather information from the Internet, magazines, interviews, books, videos and other resources. The recommendations are presented in multi-media formats and are evaluated by a panel of judges. Teams – whose presentations are judged as the best in their respective categories – are then awarded trophies and medals for superior work.

County Superintendent Jim Vidak praises the competition saying, “CyberQuest is a unique competition that allows students to showcase their problem-solving and creative-thinking abilities. Students also develop language arts skills through reading, writing, research and presentation, while coaches refine teaching practices that bring out the best in their students.”

For further information about CyberQuest, visit the Tulare County Office of Education website at www.tcoe.org/cyberquest, or contact Glenn Williams at 651-3047.

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