

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

March 8, 2007

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: 22nd Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair March 19–25, 2007 • Sequoia Mall, 3303 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 19 – 25, 2007, at the Sequoia Mall in Visalia during normal mall hours. This year, over 230 science projects representing approximately 34 Tulare County schools will be on display for public viewing. Students will compete in ten categories, 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 Science and Engineering Fair is a catalyst for students to explore their own interests,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Regardless of the scientific or engineering discipline they choose, Tulare County students are proposing impressive solutions to real-world issues.”

Students in grades 4 through 12 submit projects for judging by science experts from the private and public sectors. Students participating in the Science Fair set up their projects on Monday, March 19,

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between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Judging will take place that evening, with the top 30 projects identified as "Sweepstakes Winners." Besides the Sweepstakes Winners, The Gas Company® will present a special Environmental Vision Award. Students in grades 6 through 12, who receive a Sweepstakes Award, will be interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators on Wednesday, March 21. The panel will then select the top Tulare County Science Fair projects to continue on to the California State Science Fair.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20 and 21, community members visiting the Sequoia Mall will be able to 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 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the vacant lease space once occupied by "Ross" in the 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 and teachers responsible for the best project in each of the ten competition categories will receive a cash prize awarded by the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation.

For information about Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, contact the Public Information office at (559) 733-6606 or visit our website at [www.tcoe.org](http://www.tcoe.org). For more information about the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Science and Engineering Fair, contact Jonathan Janzen, Science Consultant, at 651-3043, or visit [www.tcoe.org/sciencefair](http://www.tcoe.org/sciencefair).

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