

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: GIANT TECH PREP EXPO 2007 Thursday, March 29, 2007

Place of Event: College of the Sequoias (COS) Visalia Campus

Time of Event: Competitions from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Awards Ceremony at 12:45 p.m.

The Kings and Tulare County Office of Educations' School-to-Career programs are collaborating to host the thirteenth annual Giant Tech Prep EXPO at the College of the Sequoias. Over 700 high school students are already registered to compete in 32 academic and trade competitions. EXPO competitions provide students with an opportunity to gain recognition for their skills at the high school level. Competitions also promote student participation in career and technical education programs within the community.

The main focus of the EXPO is to expose middle and high school students to the college experience and educate them about the kinds of programs and services offered by local educational institutions. COS students and staff will give tours and provide information about opportunities at the college.

Middle school students will be provided with interactive career pathway information and will have a special program including campus tours given by COS students. Approximately 200 students are expected to participate. Programming will conclude with awards and recognition in the COS Quad area.

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Page 2

Sponsors for the event include: Tulare County Office of Education, COS Tech Prep Consortium, Kings County Office of Education, Kings County ROP, Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education ROP (TCOVE), Tulare County School-to-Career, Visalia Unified School District, and West Hills College Tech Prep Consortium. Competition Sponsors include: McMillin Homes, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Custom Threads, and Educational Employees Credit Union.

“The Giant Tech Prep EXPO is a valuable experience for both middle and high school students as they begin to think about their futures,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “It’s particularly worthwhile because those involved are also becoming more familiar with the college.”

"EXPO 2007 puts students in touch with their future in higher education," says Kris Costa, COS Tech Prep coordinator. "Students who have never imagined going to college, begin to see a future here filled with tremendous opportunity for growth and skill development," says Costa.

GIANT TECH PREP EXPO SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Competitions – length of competitions will vary Middle School tours
10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Demonstrations, Activities and Campus Food Booths
12:45 p.m.	Awards Ceremony
2:00 p.m.	Conclusion

Additional information about the Giant Tech Prep EXPO is available at www.giantexpo.org.

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