

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

September 25, 2007

Media Alert

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Educators of the Year to be Honored at the 14th Annual Confucius' Birthday Celebration at Chinese Cultural Center September 27, 2007 • 6:00 p.m. • Chinese Cultural Center • 500 S. Akers St., Visalia

Invited colleagues, family members and dignitaries will gather at the Fourteenth Annual Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Celebration on Thursday, September 27 to honor three of Tulare County's best teachers. The ceremony – which begins at 6:00 p.m. 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. "It is a privilege to honor these outstanding teachers for their work in molding young people into ethical, life-long learners and citizens," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "This year's winners, who represent one elementary, middle and high school, exemplify all the qualities of great teachers."

Each year, the Tulare County Office of Education and the Chinese Cultural Center select one elementary, one middle and one high school teacher for the honor. This year's winners are: Carolyn Hill, Hoss McNutt and Dennis Borges.

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Carolyn Hill, Kindergarten teacher at Kings River Union Elementary, graduated from Fresno State and spent the first 10 years of her career in sales and marketing. Over the past 29 years in education, she has blended her experience in sociology, sales/marketing, and education to help form wonderful, inquisitive young minds and — at the same time — develop self-esteem in her students that they will carry with them for their entire lives. Mrs. Hill’s philosophy of teaching is to help students reach her high aspirations. She says, “Believe in them, because they believe in you!”

Hoss McNutt teaches seventh- and eighth-grade elective courses at Burton Middle School. His classroom at lunch and after school looks like the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. One student referred to it as Hoss’ House of Numbers and Motion. The real joy of being a teacher for Mr. McNutt comes when a student says that he couldn’t wait to get to school on Monday to share an idea he had been thinking about on the weekend. His biggest reward is realized when he can celebrate with the student that “Oh yeah, now I get it!” moment. That, he says, has been recharging his batteries for years!

Dennis Borges is a Portuguese Language teacher for Tulare Union High School. He feels that enthusiasm is incredibly important when teaching a foreign language. Part of Mr. Borges’ philosophy of teaching is based on the Chinese proverb: “Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.” By engaging his students in the learning process with

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enjoyable lessons, he is hopeful they will become life-long learners. He also engages students by learning and discussing their interests in school and their extra-curricular activities.

For more information on this event, please contact Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606.

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