

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

March 20, 2008

## **For Immediate Release**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair Introduces New Hands-On Competition Category**

**March 31–April 6, 2008 • Sequoia Mall, 3303 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia**

The 23rd annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 31 – April 6, 2008, at the Sequoia Mall in Visalia during normal mall hours. Over 230 science projects representing the work of students in grades 4 - 12 from 40 Tulare County schools will be on display. This year, students participating in the Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair may submit their projects under two different categories: a “Showing Science” category, which allows students to demonstrate what they know about science; and a “Doing Science” category, which allows students to develop a traditional project involving a hypothesis and an experiment. In the recent past, the Science & Engineering Fair has featured “Doing Science” projects.

Students will begin setting up their projects on Monday, March 31, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Judging will take place that evening, with the top 30 projects in the “Doing Science” category identified as “Sweepstakes Winners.” Students will compete in ten categories,

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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.

Besides the Sweepstakes Winners, The Gas Company® will present a special Environmental Vision Award. Students in grades 6 - 12, who receive a Sweepstakes Award, will be interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators and science specialists on Wednesday, April 2. The panel will then select the top eight Tulare County Science Fair projects to continue on to the California State Science Fair.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 1 and 2, 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, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the center court of the Sequoia Mall. Deserving student scientists will be awarded plaques in each of the following areas: Sweepstakes, Environmental Vision and Community Choice. Additionally, those projects that will continue on to the California State Science Fair will be announced. The "Showing Science" projects will be awarded ribbons and medals. Students and teachers responsible for the best project in each of the ten "Doing Science" competition

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categories will receive a cash prize awarded by the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation.

“Students involved in the Science & Engineering Fair are taking a serious look at the things in the world that need improvement – energy usage, human health, food production and many other concerns,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Their solutions are often quite amazing.”

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 23<sup>rd</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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