

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 Grows for 2008

Thursday, April 3, 2008

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 School-to-Career programs from the Kings and Tulare County Offices of Education are collaborating to host the 14th Annual Giant Tech Prep EXPO at the College of the Sequoias. Over 750 high school students are already registered to compete in 33 academic and trade competitions. EXPO competitions provide high school students with an opportunity to gain recognition for their skills. Competitions also promote student participation in career and technical education programs within the community. New for 2008 are demonstration competitions in veterinary science, human anatomy and sports therapy.

In addition, growing community involvement for the event can be seen in the web site creation competition. This year, students competing in this portion of the event will be asked to develop a site for an actual Exeter-based bistro, Monet's. The winner of this category will have their web site design utilized by the new bistro. Jennifer Davis, owner of Monet's, says: "We at Monet's are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with a local student to develop our web page. We can't

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wait to see what the students have developed on our behalf!”

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. Students touring the campus will also have the opportunity to meet with 40 representatives from community and educational organizations, including U.C. Merced and all branches of the military. In addition, entertainment will be provided in the quad, including a fashion show by students in the college’s clothing projects, performances by the COS pep and dance squads and climbing on the U.S. Army’s rock wall.

Middle school students will be provided with interactive career pathway information and will have a special program including campus tours given by COS students. Up to 200 middle school students are expected to participate. The event will conclude with awards and recognitions in the COS quad area.

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.

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“The Giant Tech Prep EXPO brings nearly 1,000 students to the COS campus and, through competition, sharpens their skills in a wide range of career-related activities,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. COS President Dr. Bill Scroggins adds: “The COS Giant Tech Prep Expo is a major outreach function of the college to connect to middle and high school students about the importance of going to college. The event has been growing in its attendance and breadth thanks to the dedicated service of dozens of folks here at the college. This is an important event for both the college and community in promoting the value of education.”

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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