

# 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: Educational Resource Services Receives Two National Endowment for the Humanities Awards**

Tulare County Office of Education's Educational Resource Services (ERS) recently received two awards for its county schools library collection from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Tulare and Kings county schools contracting with ERS for library and media services may now borrow from the recently awarded collections.

The first award is entitled *Picturing America*. The ERS library was one of 1,500 recipients nationwide to receive the NEH program. *Picturing America* is an innovative program that helps teach American history through 40 carefully-selected works of art spanning several centuries — all by American painters, sculptors, photographers and architects. The ERS library received large, high-quality reproductions of these images along with a teacher's resource book, lesson plans and other materials. Including the new web site, [www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov](http://www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov), *Picturing America's* resources unlock the potential in each work of art to enhance the study of American history, social studies, language arts, literature and civics.

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The second resource is called the *We the People* “Created Equal” Bookshelf. The ERS library is one of only 3,000 institutions nationwide to receive these materials. The “Created Equal” Bookshelf provides opportunities for young people to explore what the Revolutionary generation meant when it declared that “all men are created equal.”

The “Created Equal” Bookshelf is a collection of 17 classic hardcover books – all related to the “created equal” theme. Selections from the collection include *The Gettysburg Address* by Abraham Lincoln, *Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom* by Virginia Hamilton, *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Russell Freedman, *Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution* by Natalie S. Bober, and *That All People May Be One People, Send Rain to Wash the Face of the Earth* by Nez Perce Chief Joseph. In addition, ERS received four of these books in Spanish translation, a bonus “History in a Box” resource kit created by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and supplementary materials for programming, including bookplates, bookmarks and posters. Through the books, students explore the challenges America has faced, and where it has shown progress in its efforts to live up to the ideal of universal human equality.

“We are extremely proud of the ERS program for continually seeking new services and materials to support teachers in the classroom,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

“The addition of the materials from the National Endowment for the Humanities is another example of their leadership in providing the finest library and media services available.”

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For more information about the ERS library collection, including the materials awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, contact program manager Elainea Scott at (559) 651-3042. For information on other Tulare County Office of Education programs, contact Robert Herman, public information officer, at (559) 733-6606.

#TCOE#

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