

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Head Start child chosen for national commemorative campaign**

*Visalia* - Alejandra Cortez-Andrade, a preschooler at the Washington Child Care Center in Lindsay, has been selected as one of five children nationwide to represent the federal Head Start program's service milestone of 25 million children enrolled. She was the only child selected for the campaign from California.

Head Start's commemorative campaign is promoting its success in preparing children for school and helping to close the achievement gap once students are in elementary school. Alejandra began the program as a child who wouldn't speak at school. According to Angie Rodriguez-Angeles, supervisor at the Washington Center, Alejandra's teachers have worked to get her to repeat things they say and to do things in front of the class. Today, her speech is perfect and she is very motivated to read. Alejandra's progress at her Head Start program has inspired her mother to further her own education and acquire better English skills.

In Tulare County, comprehensive Head Start services, which prepare children for Kindergarten, are offered through 43 centers operated by the Tulare County Office of Education. For more information on the Tulare County Child Care Educational Program and Head Start services, call (559) 651-3022.

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“We are extremely proud to have a representative in Head Start’s commemorative celebration,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “For the past 40 years, our Child Care Educational Program – a provider of Head Start services – has been able to prepare thousands of Tulare County children for success in school.”

For additional information, contact Robert Herman, public information officer, at (559) 733-6606.

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