

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: Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair begins next week

March 19-23, 2012 • Sequoia Mall, 3303 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia

The 27th Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 19-23 at the Sequoia Mall in Visalia during regular mall hours. Approximately 170 science projects representing the work of students in grades 3 - 12 from throughout Tulare County will be on display. Students participating in the Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair submit their projects to showcase the scientific method, which is the testing of a scientific hypothesis involving observation and theory.

Students will set up their projects on Monday, March 19, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Judging will take place that evening with over 50 engineers, science educators, meteorologists, physicians and practicing scientists selecting the top 30 projects in the “Doing Science” category for “Sweepstakes Awards.” Students compete in ten categories, including: Behavioral and Social Sciences; Botany; Earth and Space; Engineering and Mathematics;

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Environmental Science; Medicine and Health; Microbiology and Biochemistry; Physical Science; Product Testing and Materials Science; and Zoology.

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, March 21. The panel will then select the top six Tulare County Science Fair projects to continue on to the California State Science Fair in Los Angeles April 30 - May 1, 2012.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20 and 21, community members visiting the Sequoia Mall will be able to vote for their favorite projects. Projects with the most votes will be presented with “Community Choice Award.” An awards ceremony will be held Thursday, March 22, 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. Students responsible for the best project in each of the ten categories will receive a cash prize.

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“The projects show a real concern by students to address some serious issues we face as a nation – issues such as energy usage, human health, food production and environmental concerns,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We’re always impressed with the creativity and thoroughness of the projects in the Science Fair.”

For information about the 27th Annual Science and Engineering Fair, call Robert Herman, public information officer at (559) 733-6606, or visit www.tcoe.org/sciencefair.

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