

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:

Three staff members promoted as Tulare County Office of Education assistant superintendents retire

Visalia – Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak is pleased to announce the promotion of three individuals into key positions at the Tulare County Office of Education.

Linda McKean has been selected as the **new assistant superintendent of Special Services**. Linda has worked for the Special Services Division since 2000, most recently as program manager for the Mild to Moderate Program. Prior to joining the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), she was a resource teacher, program specialist and finally director of Special Education for Visalia Unified School District. In her new role, Linda will also serve as director of the Tulare County SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area), which is an organization of county and district personnel who plan how special education services are provided locally.

Linda becomes the assistant superintendent of Special Services as **Dr. Marilyn Rankin** retires after 38 years of service to the division. Dr. Rankin has served as assistant superintendent of Special Services since 1980. “The students of Tulare County have certainly benefitted from Marilyn’s commitment to building unique,

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collaborative programs such as the Parent Liaison Service, in-home services for students with autism, Children’s Mental Health and Therapeutic Services, and Infant Services,” Mr. Vidak says. “These programs – and many others – have become statewide models other county offices look to emulate.”

John Rodriguez, human resources manager for the Child Care Educational Program, has been chosen as the **new director of the Human Resources Division**. John will oversee the division’s credentials/retirement program, the personnel technicians and the Child Care human resources department.

John Rodriguez has served as the human resources manager for the Child Care Educational Program since August 2009. The Child Care Program is the office of education’s largest program with approximately 650 employees. It is also home to the federal Head Start Program and state preschool programs, which serve over 2,000 children in 33 child care centers and home-based programs. The program serves an additional 2,500 children through various state-subsidized programs.

John becomes the human resources manager as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources **Jeanne Nava** retires. Ms. Nava has served in the role of assistant superintendent since 1993, supervising programs such as Human Resources, Credentials/Retirement, the New Teacher Development Program, the IMPACT Intern Program and the California Teacher Recruitment Program.

Ms. Nava has been a respected and innovative human resources leader. During her career at TCOE, she helped compete for and win several major statewide teacher recruitment grants. As a result, thousands of teachers were placed in classrooms throughout the Valley. She also served on both the regional and state

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Personnel Administrative Services Steering Committees (PASSCo). She was also a pioneer in adopting the statewide Ed-Join online recruitment system. “Schools in our region are better for the tremendous energy Jeanne Nava brought to bettering personnel relations, advancing recruitment and improving teacher quality,” says Mr. Vidak. “It has been a pleasure to work alongside a woman so committed to seeing that students have the best teachers and districts have the latest resources.”

Dr. Guadalupe Solis, administrator for Student Support and Academic Services at Educational Resource Services, has been selected as the **assistant superintendent of Instructional Services**.

Since 2005, Dr. Solis has led the Educational Resource Services program, which supports school districts in Tulare County with instructional training and library services. In his career, Dr. Solis has served as an instructional consultant for the Tulare County Office of Education, as the regional coordinator for the state’s Bilingual Teacher Training Program and as superintendent of Reef-Sunset Unified School District in Kings County.

Dr. Solis becomes the assistant superintendent as **Dr. Pansy Ceballos** retires. Dr. Ceballos began her professional career in Tulare County as a seventh-grade teacher and has taught numerous grade levels including college. Since starting at TCOE in 1977, she has served as a resource teacher, educational consultant, and a program manager. She was named assistant superintendent in 2003.

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In her tenure as assistant superintendent, Dr. Ceballos has helped guide the charter process for University Preparatory High School (which opened in 2009) and the creation of the Choices After School Program (which opened in 2007). She is proud of the work Educational Resource Services and its instructional consultants have done to raise the academic achievement levels of Tulare County schools. “I have appreciated the work Dr. Ceballos has done to build the Instructional Services Division into a cohesive and truly innovative service unit that supports student achievement and youth development,” says Mr. Vidak.

The Instructional Services Division is home to Migrant Education, Choices Prevention and Youth Development Programs, SCICON, Child Care Educational Program, School Health Programs, Educational Resource Services (ERS), the Theatre Company, La Sierra Military Academy and Services for Education & Employment (SEE), University Preparatory High School, and the Impact Program, which is home to the Peña Planetarium.

“We are tremendously proud of the work retiring assistant superintendents Dr. Pansy Ceballos, Dr. Marilyn Rankin and Jeanne Nava have done to support Tulare County school districts and students,” says Jim Vidak.

“We are excited about the talents and enthusiasm Dr. Guadalupe Solis, Linda McKean and John Rodriguez bring to these positions. We look forward to more innovative work from them in our efforts to serve Tulare County educators, students and families.”

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

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