

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:

Student projects sought for new community event

A Night at the 21st Century Museum created to showcase examples of Project Based Learning and students mastering 21st Century learning skills

May 14, 2014 • 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Heritage Complex, S. 4500 S Laspina St., Tulare

On May 14, the Heritage Complex in Tulare will be transformed into a showcase of student projects as part a new event entitled *A Night at the 21st Century Museum*. The event will feature dozens of documentaries, live performances, literacy projects, enterprise ventures and other exhibits from elementary, middle and high school student groups across the county.

According to Joy Soares, the Tulare County Office of Education's Project Based Learning (PBL) staff development and curriculum specialist, *A Night at the 21st Century Museum* was created with two big ideas in mind: offer a format where students and teachers can share their high quality work and create an event where parents, community members, and other teachers and students can gain an understanding of Project Based Learning. "Many Tulare County teachers and students are examining what it means to be 21st Century teachers and learners," says Mrs. Soares. "*A Night at the Century Museum* is a place where we can further the discussions together as students, teachers, parents and communities."

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One of the projects being featured at *A Night at the 21st Century Museum* is a restaurant concept developed by students at Countryside High School in Tulare. This month, students Taylor Saltkill, Nicole Whitten, Rickelle Floyd, Genesis Deniz and Ruben Gonzales are working to create a restaurant from top to bottom. The team will choose a theme for their restaurant, research appropriate restaurant décor, create the menu, develop job descriptions, learn about food safety, design their attire and serve meals to a panel of judges. According to school counselor Lisa Jacobo, the Countryside project is an excellent example of PBL. “Students are prioritizing and problem-solving,” she says. “They are working together as a group, observing, imagining, researching and revising. It’s a process where they realize that they can’t do their job without the help of the others.”

Five students from Dinuba High School’s newly created Academy of Engineering and Construction Management have been asked to design the exhibition space for *A Night at the 21st Century Museum*. Dinuba High School will begin its Academy of Engineering and Construction Management next fall with Marlina Celaya as lead teacher. Working with the essential question “How can we design a 21st Century museum where all of the visitors and exhibitors will learn together?,” the students are beginning to develop a scale drawing of the space and thinking about how to organize dozens of exhibits and performance areas to maximize visitor engagement. Ms. Celaya says, “I hope that our students will learn what is needed in order to create an exceptional plan – whether it is for this museum or any other business sector project.”

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“The beauty of PBL is that students gain the 21st Century learning skills educators and future employers want to see developed most – critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication,” adds Joy Soares. **Teachers who would like to submit examples of Project Based Learning for exhibition at *A Night at the 21st Century Museum* are encouraged to contact Joy Soares at (559) 647-9973 before April 25.**

For additional information, contact Joy Soares of Tulare County Office of Education’s Educational Resource Services program at (559) 651-0501.

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