

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

July 22, 2014

Media Advisory

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Friday Night Live advisors from throughout California come to Visalia for annual training

Attendees to hear from noted researchers and youth development leaders
July 23-25, 2014 • Marriott Hotel Ballroom, Visalia, CA

The California Friday Night Live Partnership will host a training for local Friday Night Live Partnership advisors from 53 California counties Wednesday, July 23 through Friday, July 25. The purpose of the training, which will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Visalia, is to provide ongoing support to the adult staff that implements Friday Night Live Programs across the state. It is expected that approximately 150 participants will attend, representing programs at over 650 school and community sites. Attendees will hear from noted researchers and youth development leaders.

This school year marks the 30th year for the Friday Night Live program. “One of the amazing things about the program is how it has evolved over the past 30 years,” said Dr. Jim Kooler, administrator for the program at the Tulare County Office of Education. “Initially, Friday Night Live was a program designed to address the dangers of teens ‘driving under the influence.’ Today, the program targets a wide range of issues important to California’s young people.”

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The trainers featured at the 2014 conference include a variety of state agency leaders and nationally-renowned speakers who will challenge and inspire the participants to stretch their skills to continue to improve the Friday Night Live program.

Dr. Karen Baylor: Wednesday, July 23, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Karen Baylor is the Deputy Director of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Services at the California Department of Health Care Services. Previously Dr. Baylor was the Behavioral Health Administrator for the County of San Luis Obispo.

Eric Rowles, Leading to Change, Inc.: Wednesday, July 23, 3:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Eric Rowles is a nationally-recognized trainer, speaker, and consultant who has worked with over 150,000 youth, adults, administrators, and policymakers within the past 15 years. Eric's previous experience includes work as Senior Director of Training with the Youth Leadership Institute.

Dr. Reef Karim: Thursday, July 24, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Reef Karim is a psychiatrist and an addiction medicine specialist. He is a senior attending physician and an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience, as well a published research scientist in the field of behavioral and chemical addictions. Dr. Reef is a well-known personality in the field of mental health, relationships, and addictions, having appeared numerous times on *Oprah*, *Larry King Live*, *Anderson Cooper 360*, *The Today Show*, *Dateline NBC*, and many others.

Dr. Rory Reid: Thursday, July 24, 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

Dr. Rory Reid's focus is on patients seeking help for impulse control disorders, including hypersexual behavior, pathological gambling, and substance-related disorders. He has published numerous articles on these topics in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

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Gabe Gardner: Friday, July 25, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Gabe Gardner was a Gold Medal winner for volleyball in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He was also a member of the 2004 USA Volleyball Team which competed at the Athens Olympics. Mr. Gardner is a representative of TrueSport, a movement of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency designed to reinforce clean competition, sportsmanship and peak performance.

Maureen Sedonaen: Friday, July 25, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Maureen Sedonaen has a long history as a social impact business leader. For the past two years, she has served as Regional Vice President for Revolution Foods, leading the growth and development in California for one of the fastest growing inner city companies in America. Prior to Revolution Foods, Ms. Sedonaen was the Founder and CEO of Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), an innovative leader in the field of youth development.

For additional information about the conference, contact Dr. Jim Kooler of the California Friday Night Live Partnership at (559) 733-6496, ext. 1263.

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