

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

December 11, 2014

For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: TCOE to receive Golden Bell Award from CSBA December 16

SAN FRANCISCO - The Tulare County Office of Education is being honored with a Golden Bell Award, a leading educational honor in California sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA). Celebrating its 35th year, the Golden Bell Award promotes excellence in education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices of governing boards in school districts and county offices of education throughout California.

The Golden Bell Awards program honors exemplary programs in 19 major categories that highlight best practices to support effective governance, teaching and student learning. The Tulare County Office of Education will receive its award at a recognition ceremony to be held on Tuesday, December 16 from 12:30 to 2:30p.m. at CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco at the Westin St. Francis located at 335 Powell Street, San Francisco.

The Golden Bell Award is being presented to the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) for its work in developing a program to promote, integrate and support 21st Century learning into all areas of education both locally and outside the county. Developed by TCOE's Education Resource Services (ERS), the Common Core Implementation & Support program provides multi-faceted services to educators, including extensive

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

professional development offerings, on-site mentoring partnerships in 57 districts, interdepartmental Common Core State Standards (CCSS) collaborative efforts, a wide array of relevant, engaging, CCSS-aligned student events, and a popular CCSS resource website.

Through the development of the Common Core Implementation & Support program, ERS now offers a Professional Development Catalog with over 150 courses, which last year were attended by over 8,000 educators, locally and throughout the region. The expansion of ERS's site-based professional development, coaching, and consulting services was another important component of the ERS Common Core Implementation & Support effort. To date, ERS team members are contracted to provide customized support, including instructional planning, model lesson demonstration, and data analysis, in 57 districts and seven programs throughout the region for a total of over 2,500 days, or 14 years, of staff time.

Internally, ERS has worked to guide the alignment of other Tulare County Office of Education Instructional Services and Special Services programs to incorporate 21st Century learning. The program also created the popular Common Core Connect website, which serves as a repository of resources and tools that have been developed or vetted, indexed and catalogued into a searchable database. The site also contains TCOE-developed resources which are freely shared with educators who wish to adopt them to align with their local initiatives. Website analytics reveal that during a recent 30-day time period, 12,480 site pages were viewed by 4,353 visitors, many of whom are from other regions and states.

“The Common Core Implementation & Support program was an intentional investment in the future of our students,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “The result is the creation of an innovative instructional culture that is getting a lot of attention statewide.”

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Educational experts from school districts and county offices of education comprise the 26-member CSBA judging panel that review all written award entries. On-site visitations are schedule to validate and assess the nominated programs to determine the winners.

About CSBA

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) is the non-profit education association representing the elected officials who govern public school districts and county offices of education. With a membership of nearly 1,000 educational agencies statewide, CSBA brings together school district governing boards and county boards of education to advocate for effective policies that advance the education and well-being of the state's more than 6 million school-age children. CSBA provides policy resources and training to members, and represents the statewide interests of public education through legal, political legislative, community and media advocacy.

For more information on ERS's Common Core Implementation & Support program, call Charlene Stringham at (559) 651-3831.

TCOE