

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

October 12, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Planetarium & Science Center dedication ceremony

WHAT: The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) will hold a dedication ceremony for its new Planetarium & Science Center. The 8,700-square-foot building is located on the site of TCOE's Liberty Center. The colorful, angular building features a circular lobby with a 360-degree projection system. The 70-seat Peña Planetarium will offer eight popular astronomy programs shown through a new high resolution digital projector. For the 2015-16 school year, students will enjoy popular history shows in the Science Center on a wide-format screen. In the future, the Science Center will become home to hands-on, interactive science exhibits. These exhibits will be developed to address the standards students are learning in the classroom. It is envisioned that the new exhibits will be fully programmable for the grade level of the students visiting the building on any given day. From time to time, the Science Center could feature exciting exhibit pieces available from NASA, the Smithsonian Institution or other museums. Students will be able to visit the gift shop and have a picnic lunch under the trees on the south side of the building. The first school tours to utilize the new building will arrive in November.

WHO: Tulare County Superintendent of School Jim Vidak and members of the Tulare County Board of Education will perform a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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WHEN: **Wednesday, October 14, 2015**
1:00 p.m.

WHERE: **Tulare County Office of Education Planetarium & Science Center**
11535 Avenue 264, Visalia, CA

The planetarium was founded by the Tulare County Office of Education in the mid-60s. Last year, the program welcomed over 15,000 students and adults to see popular astronomy and history programs. For more information, contact Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606.

TCOE