

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

March 1, 2016

## **Media Advisory**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Anti-Tobacco Challenge Bowl**

**March 2, 2016 · 9:00 am – 3:00 pm · Wyndham Hotel Visalia, 9000 W. Airport Dr.**

Five-member teams of sixth-graders are preparing to participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Anti-Tobacco Challenge Bowl on March 2. The competition – hosted by the Tulare County Office of Education’s CHOICES Prevention Program – is designed to prevent tobacco use in adolescence through education. At this time, 19 schools have registered over 24 teams to compete in the event, including Alta Vista School District, Ducor Union School District, Earlimart Middle School, Grand View Elementary School (Dinuba), Kennedy Elementary School (Dinuba), Kings River Union School District (Kingsburg), Kohn Elementary School (Tulare), Mulcahy Middle School (Tulare), Palo Verde School District (Tulare), Pixley Middle School, Pleasant View School District, Springville School District, Stone Corral School District, Sunnyside Union School District, Three Rivers Union School District, Waukena Joint Union School District (Tulare), Wilson Elementary School (Dinuba), Willow Glen Elementary (Visalia), and Woodlake Middle School.

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The Anti-Tobacco Challenge Bowl is run in a game show-style format of quick call and response. Prior to the competition, schools have several weeks to prepare their five-member teams utilizing tobacco education curriculum. “Students participating in the Challenge gain valuable information on the dangers of tobacco use,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “It’s particularly valuable at this point in their lives before the temptation to use tobacco is presented.”

The competition portion of the event lasts from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., including a break for lunch and activities provided by the Tulare County Friday Night Live program.

For more information, please contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer at (559) 733-6606.

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