

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: Teacher-poets needed for new Tulare County Poet Project

Visalia – The Tulare County Office of Education, the Arts Consortium, and California Poets in the Schools (CPitS) are partnering on a brand-new initiative called the Tulare County Poet Project.

Partially funded by the Visalia Community Arts Grant and the California Arts Council, this pilot project will partner three local schools for a weeklong poetry writing seminar.

The Tulare County Poet Project is looking for published local poets interested in participating as poet-teachers in area schools. Poets will work directly with legendary poet-teacher John Oliver Simon during Poetry Week, September 12-16, 2016. Mr. Simon, who is the president of CPitS, will train three to five local poets, who will subsequently teach poetry in three Tulare County schools. President Simon and the local poets will work in classrooms at three levels: elementary, middle school, and high school.

Students will discover the magic of poetry through the works of great poets, write their own poems based on a range of enjoyable prompts, learn to use poetic forms, and read their work aloud to classmates. Poetry Week will culminate in a reading Thursday night, September 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the TCOE Administration Building at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia. The event will feature Mr. Simon, Tulare County teacher-poets, and students from the project.

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For more information about joining the Tulare County Poet Project, contact Project Coordinator Kate Stover at (559) 651-1482, email kstover@tcoe.org, or visit: <http://commoncore.tcoe.org/vapa/tulare-county-poet-project>. Local poets can also complete an interest survey, found at: <http://bit.ly/TulareCountyPoetProject>.

California Poets in the Schools (CPitS) empowers students of all ages throughout California to express their creativity, imagination, and intellectual curiosity through writing, performing and publishing their own poetry. CPitS trains and coordinates a multicultural network of published poets, who bring their passion and craft to public and private schools, juvenile halls, hospitals, libraries and other community settings.

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