

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

December 5, 2016

Media Alert

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Leading math education reformer to speak at Fox Theater Stanford University's Dr. Jo Boaler to discuss "math trauma" with parents and educators invited to free event December 5, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Fox Theater

Tulare County is experiencing a math revolution. Leading the charge is a British-born Stanford University professor named Dr. Jo Boaler. Earlier this year, Dr. Boaler began working in Tulare County as part of a three-year grant partnership with TCOE's Educational Resource Services (ERS). She and the team of math curriculum specialists from ERS are training 68 fifth-grade teachers from schools within Burton School District, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified, Dinuba Unified, Exeter Unified, Tulare City School District and Visalia Unified, as well as teachers from Valley Life Charter School and Sycamore Valley Academy.

This month, Dr. Boaler will take her revolutionary message to the masses at a symposium on Monday, December 5 from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. at the Fox Theater in Visalia. Central Valley parents, students, teachers and administrators are invited to attend the free event. Dr. Boaler will share her research and experiences in classrooms, plus offer advice on how parents can support math learning and advocate for strong math supports in their schools. In addition, teachers are welcome to submit examples of their students' work to be included in Dr. Boaler's presentation. For registration and teacher participation details on Dr. Boaler's Mindset Revolution: Central Valley Parents Night, visit commoncore.tcoe.org/math. The event will be translated into Spanish.

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Bridging neuroscience, the psychology of fixed mindsets and educational research, Dr. Boaler and her team are working to help Central Valley students realize their full potential in the study of math. Dr. Boaler's community presentation on December 5 is designed to reinforce parents' positive influence in their children's perception of math.

Dr. Jo Boaler is a leading mathematics education reformer and co-founder of youcubed, a Stanford center that provides mathematics education resources to teachers, students and parents. She is the author of eight books, including *Mathematical Mindsets* (2016), *What's Math Got To Do With It?* (2009), and *The Elephant in the Classroom* (2010) – each written for teachers and parents with the goal of improving mathematics education in both the United States and Great Britain. Her 1997/2002 book, *Experiencing School Mathematics* won the "Outstanding Book of the Year" award for education in Britain.

In 1997, Dr. Boaler completed her PhD in mathematics education at Kings College London and won the award for best PhD in education from the British Educational Research Association. In 1998, she became an Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University in the Graduate School of Education, gaining tenure in 2001 and becoming a full professor there in 2006.

Dr. Boaler has completed multi-year studies in England and the U.S., finding that students who were actively engaged in mathematics learning, using problem solving and reasoning about their methods, achieved at higher levels and enjoyed math more than those who engaged passively by practicing methods that a teacher had demonstrated. More recently, Dr. Boaler has published research showing the links between timed testing and math anxiety.

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In her recent book, *Mathematical Mindsets*, Dr. Boaler helps U.S. math educators revolutionize their classrooms by addressing the math trauma that has occurred in American classrooms – a trauma that has created generations of individuals who feel they could never be successful in math. “Some believe people are born with an innate ability for achievement in mathematics while others are better suited for more inclusive subjects such as reading or art,” said Shelah Feldstein, ERS mathematics staff development & curriculum specialist. “It is commonly understood that to be successful in a sport, to read well, or to become fluent in another language, one must put forth effort and believe that they are capable of success. In math, however, students do not believe this is true and so they often give up on any hope of learning math at high levels. We see the effect this has on college graduation rates and the number of adults prepared for math- and science-related careers in the American economy.”

For more information about the Central Valley Parents Night, call Shelah Feldstein at (559) 651-2130.

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