

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

March 8, 2017

Media Advisory

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Third Annual STEM Expo March 11

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ▪ 8:30 am – 3:30 pm ▪ TCOE Planetarium & Science Center,
11535 Avenue 264, Visalia

The community is invited to celebrate everything about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at the annual STEM Expo March 11. Parents, students, teachers, local businesses and community organizations are invited to visit the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) Planetarium & Science Center for a day of live STEM demonstrations and activities. This free event is held in an “open house” format.

Students will bring their science projects to compete for top prizes and the chance to advance to the California State Science Fair in Los Angeles, April 24-25. Over 90 science projects have been registered in six competition categories: Life Science; Earth and Space Science; Physical Science – Chemistry; Physical Science – Physics; Engineering and Mathematics; and Behavioral and Social Sciences.

The STEM Expo provides students with fun, engaging activities to build knowledge about STEM, including the annual Science & Engineering Fair, a coding workshop, a robotics workshop and exhibition, a *FIRST* LEGO League demonstration and a maker space, where participants can learn to build several projects out of ordinary materials.

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“The STEM Expo is designed to engage students and families in learning about many of the educational and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” said TCOE’s Jared Marr, a STEM staff development/curriculum specialist.

The highlight of the STEM Expo will be a presentation by Stuart Sumida, Ph.D., a paleontologist and comparative anatomist who teaches animal and human anatomy, ranging from the undergraduate to the medical level. Dr. Sumida is currently the Wang Distinguished Professor of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering for the California State University System. He is also Professor of Biology at California State University, San Bernardino.

Dr. Sumida is considered the world's foremost anatomical consultant to special effects artists and animators, having worked on over 50 feature-length films such as *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Mulan*, *Harry Potter* and *Kung Fu Panda*, for such groups as DreamWorks and Walt Disney Feature Animation, among others.

Dr. Sumida has written three books and published over 70 peer-reviewed articles focusing on the evolution of vertebrates, as well as the integration of science in the arts. He has received funding for his research from the National Geographic Society, NATO, the National Science Foundation, and numerous museums.

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For more information on participating in the STEM Expo as an exhibitor or vendor, call Paula Terrill at (559) 651-0565. For more information, visit tcoe.org/STEMExpo, or call Robert Herman, Public Information Officer at (559) 733-6606.

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