

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

October 17, 2017

## **Media Alert**

**Contact: Robert Herman**  
Public Information Officer  
559/733-6606 (office)  
559/303-8568 (cell)

## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: CHARACTER COUNTS! Week kicks off today October 16-21, 2017**

For 22 years, the Tulare County Office of Education has led Tulare County school districts in celebrating National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week (October 16-21). This year, 133 Tulare County schools nominated over 6,400 students for the annual Kids of Character Awards, which is held in partnership with the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register*. Each day this week, the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register* will feature stories on selected students who have performed remarkable acts of kindness, made good decisions or served others selflessly in their schools and communities. A link to all 2017 Kids of Character nominations can be found at [tcoe.org/KidsofCharacterNominees](http://tcoe.org/KidsofCharacterNominees).

CHARACTER COUNTS! is a nationwide initiative, created by the Josephson Institute of Ethics, which embraces six core values common to a democratic society. These six core values allow teachers, parents and community members to build and develop character in youth. CHARACTER COUNTS! is religiously and politically neutral. The six core values – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship – transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences.

On November 2, the 36 winners and finalists profiled in the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register* will be honored at the annual Provident-Salierno Family Foundation Awards. The winners and finalists were chosen by

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

the CHARACTER COUNTS! review committee to represent each of the Six Pillars of Character. Each pillar is represented by one north county and one south county winner(s), plus two north county and two south county finalists. The reception, which is open to the public, will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the TCOE Redwood Conference Center at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia. The awards were the vision of Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. Through the generous support of the Provident-Salierno Family Foundation, students honored each year receive a scholarship.

Students being honored at the November 2 Provident-Salierno Family Foundation Awards are:

## **PILLAR OF TRUSTWORTHINESS**

### **Winners**

Hannah Dlugonski, Sundale Union School, Tulare (grade 1)

Shania Rojas, Sycamore Valley Academy, Visalia (grade 5)

### **Finalists**

Daniella Gomez, Oak Valley Union School, Tulare (Transitional Kindergarten)

Naliyah Jones, Valley Life Charter School, Visalia (grade 4)

Berenice Lopez, Maple Elementary School, Tulare (grade 2)

Nathaniel Rivera, Annie R. Mitchell Elementary School, Visalia (grade 3)

## **PILLAR OF RESPECT**

### **Winners**

David Sanchez, Pixley Middle School, Pixley (grade 8)

Mika Temmerman, Ridgeview Middle School, Visalia (grade 8)

### **Finalists**

Mario Andrade, Lincoln Elementary School, Tulare (Kindergarten)

Karina Castro, Riverway Elementary School, Visalia (grade 2)

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

Jacob Daguman, Porterville High School, Porterville (grade 11)

Gabriela Perez, Kings River Union School, Kingsburg (grade 5)

## **PILLAR OF RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Winners**

Sandra Cisneros, Strathmore Middle School, Strathmore (grade 5)

Kasie Elisarraraz, Tulare Western High School, Tulare (grade 11)

Daejah Wright, Tulare Western High School, Tulare (grade 12)

Lialy Zamora, Tulare Western High School, Tulare (grade 11)

### **Finalists**

Alejandra Brizuella, Sierra Vista Charter High School, Tulare (grade 12)

Estefany Nunez Damian, El Monte Middle School, Orosi (grade 7)

Maria Rivas-Gonzalez, Ivanhoe Elementary School, Ivanhoe (grade 7)

Victor Rosas-Munoz, Alice G. Mulcahy Middle School, Tulare (grade 8)

## **PILLAR OF FAIRNESS**

### **Winners**

Cole Machado, Springville Union School, Springville (grade 7)

Daniela Martinez, Stone Corral School, Visalia (grade 8)

### **Finalists**

Anali Alcantar, John J. Doyle Elementary School, Porterville (grade 6)

Erick Garcia-Villasenor, Wilson Elementary School, Tulare (grade 5)

Ella Quezada, Liberty School, Tulare (grade 2)

Damian Valencia, Strathmore High School, Strathmore (grade 11)

## **PILLAR OF CARING**

### **Winners**

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

Jacob Negrete, Global Learning Charter School, Visalia (grade 5)

Alejandro Valdivia-Aceves, Mission Oak High School, Tulare (grade 11)

## **Finalists**

Eva Barela, Westfield Elementary School, Porterville (grade 6)

Jose Rocha, Cutler Elementary School, Cutler (grade 5)

Melanie Valdez-Olivarez, Lincoln Elementary School, Lindsay (grade 7)

Jenna Yeates, Cherry Avenue Middle School, Tulare (grade 8)

## **PILLAR OF CITIZENSHIP**

### **Winners**

Ashton Hamilton, Tulare Union High School, Tulare (grade 12)

Samaria Tamayo, El Diamante High School, Visalia (grade 12)

### **Finalists**

Cathalina Chavez, Goshen Elementary School, Visalia (grade 3)

Liberty Peckham, Crescent Valley Charter School - Tulare Campus (grade 10)

Andrew Ventura, Lindsay High School, Lindsay (grade 12)

Shelby Whinery, Porterville High School, Porterville (grade 12)

-TCOE-