

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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Media Advisory

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

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Fourth Annual STEM Expo March 10

Saturday, March 10, 2018 ▪ 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 Saturday, March 10. The public is 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 23-24. Over 60 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 Science Fair is open to the public beginning at 12:30 p.m.

The STEM Expo provides students with fun, engaging activities to build knowledge about STEM, including the annual Science & Engineering Fair; hands-on robotics coding; a green screen for video projects; an electronic game station; a Cardboard Challenge area for families to imagine and build using

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cardboard; and a makerspace, where participants can build smartphone speakers, paper rockets and circuits out of ordinary materials. This year, several art-based activities have also been added.

Throughout the day, the TCOE Planetarium will show back-to-back presentations of its popular program, “Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope,” utilizing its recently upgraded projection system. The program traces the history of the telescope and the advances that have been made since the time of Newton and Galileo. The STEM Expo will also feature a variety of community booths and local food trucks.

“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 Dr. Jose Rafael Prado of Monsanto Company. Dr. Prado leads an international team of 15 highly-skilled researchers in the United States and Brazil in the development of diverse varieties of vegetables and row crops with beneficial traits, such as disease resistance, improved nutritional profile, and higher productivity through a combination of robotics and automation, as well as molecular breeding tools. Dr. Prado holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Biology from Stanford University School of Medicine. He has also been a guest lecturer for the Introduction to Genetic Engineering course at Stanford.

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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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