

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:

TCOE to hold celebration for retiring Tulare County Superintendent of Schools, Jim Vidak Saturday, November 17, 2018, 5:30 p.m., International Agri-Center, Tulare

To celebrate the career of Jim Vidak, Tulare County's longest-serving county superintendent, the Tulare County Office of Education will host a fundraising dinner on Saturday, November 17. The fundraising event, entitled *The Vision & the Visionary: A Night to Celebrate Science & Service*, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on November 17 at the International Agri-Center in Tulare. Tickets are \$75 per person with various table sponsorship opportunities also available. For ticket information, visit www.tcoe.org/FieldStation/Nov17Event.shtm or call (559) 733-6302. **The deadline to RSVP for the dinner event is Friday, November 2.**

The fundraising event will feature a social hour with farm-to-fork hors d'oeuvres created by Mitch Vanagten, executive chef at UC Merced, a hearty meal created by Ruiz Catering, live entertainment, and a variety of raffle opportunities hosted by the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation. The event will also include a live auction featuring collectible cars, a week's stay in a spectacular Maui beachside home, jewelry and more.

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All proceeds for the event's activities will benefit the new UC Merced/SCICON Field Station, an environmental research facility to be located on the Tulare County Office of Education's Circle J-Norris Ranch outdoor education site. In 2019, the field station will welcome UC scientists to study the unique ecological issues of the San Joaquin Valley – a critical and understudied region in California for environmental research. The project will also foster opportunities for Tulare County students and educators to participate in and contribute to research involving water, pollution, land use and conservation, and plant and animal life.

The field station was the vision of Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak, who will retire from office January 7, 2019, having served 28 years as county superintendent.

For more information on the Field Station or the November 17 event, visit tcoe.org/FieldStation or call 559-733-6302.

#TCOE#