

Tulare County Office of Education

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March 11, 2019

Media Alert

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: University Preparatory High School receives “Distinguished School” commendation from state

Recently, **California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond** announced the winners in the **2019 Distinguished Schools Program**. Among the 162 California middle and high schools to receive the award was **University Preparatory High School (UPHS)**, a charter school of the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE). UPHS was the only school in Tulare County to receive the honor. The Distinguished Schools Program recognizes outstanding education programs and practices. Schools are awarded for achieving exceptional student performance for two consecutive school years or closing the achievement gap between two school years. UPHS had been a recipient of the state’s Gold Ribbon Award in 2015.

UPHS is an early college high school chartered by TCOE in partnership with the College of the Sequoias (COS). UPHS offers students the opportunity to complete high school courses while concurrently taking college courses at COS. University Preparatory High School is a free, public high school which opened in fall 2009.

UPHS welcomes all highly-motivated students looking for an accelerated and rigorous academic program that prepares them for college success. One of the many strengths of University Preparatory High School is the opportunity it provides students to acclimate to college culture and develop the many skills required for college success while still in high school. UPHS

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students learn to navigate the complexities of the modern college experience, develop academic and social self-reliance, and acquire learning strategies that will serve them well for a lifetime. Students will experience their high school years in a college setting, participate in college classes and earn a minimum of 20 college units before graduating from high school.

On the 2017-18 state CAASPP tests, 71% of UPHS 11th-grade students met or exceeded the standards in Math – an increase of 22% from the 2016-2017 test. In English, 88% of the school's 11th-grade students met or exceeded the standards in English – an increase of 7% from the 2016-2017 test.

Students also focus on leadership at University Preparatory High School. Students organize and manage numerous clubs and school activities. Currently, the UPHS student body runs 33 clubs, including sports, video gaming, community service and more. Not only does UPHS offer students the opportunity to excel as leaders, the school also has many competitive academic options, including a Science Olympiad team, a Step Up Youth Challenge team, a Slick Rock Student Film Festival team, a Mock Trial team, and an award-winning robotics team. Additionally, UPHS offers a robust Fine Arts program which includes a full drama production, an improvisation class, an acting class, choir, folklorico dance, and a handbell choir which performs regularly in the community.

For more information about UPHS, visit tcoe.org/uphs.

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