

Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

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Media Advisory

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

UC Merced/SCICON Field Station launches internship program next week

June 25-27, Circle J-Norris Ranch, 41893 Yokohl Valley Dr, Springville, CA

Next week, 16 high school students will be the first to participate in an internship program as part of the new UC Merced/SCICON Field Station. Students will receive a stipend to begin an ongoing project to map the Circle J-Norris Ranch, the site of the new field station. Using GPS devices, students will establish a grid which can be used by local environmental science students and researchers from the University of California. The grid will also serve as a basis for their own ongoing oak mortality research.

The mapping project will begin on June 25 and continue through June 27 daily from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Circle J-Norris Ranch. The internship project will be led by Circle J lead teacher Nancy Bruce with support from staff at UC Merced, including Dr. Jessica Blois, faculty director of UC Merced's Natural Reserves.

“It’s through donations from sponsors such as Educational Employees Credit Union, Fred and Mitzie Ruiz, the Porterville Breakfast Rotary and so many others who pledged to support student paid internship opportunities during the fundraising dinner TCOE held in November that we are able to offer this first research program,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “This is the beginning of an internship program that

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will involve more Tulare County students and lead, we hope, to them seeing UC Merced as a place for them to continue their studies, particularly if they're interested in environmental sciences.”

The Tulare County Office of Education and UC Merced have created a much-needed research site in the Sierra Nevada foothills which will expose students to higher education learning and environmental science career opportunities. High school students and teachers interested in participating in the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station internship program in the future are encouraged to contact Dianne Shew at (559) 539-2642.

TCOE