

Tulare County
Office of Education
Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

June 4, 2001

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:
2001 Excellence in Education Award Winners

Tulare County Administrator of the Year Tulare County Teacher of the Year
Tulare County School Employee of the Year

The Tulare County Office of Education is pleased to announce the winners of the 2001 Excellence in Education Awards program. Judging for the 2001 Excellence in Education Awards was held May 17. A committee of 17 Tulare County business and educational leaders reviewed 30 nominations submitted in the categories of teacher, administrator and school employee.

"I'm delighted by the quality and quantity of entries in this year's program," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "This year, entries came from large and small districts from throughout Tulare County."

The award for Administrator of the Year will go to Carlyn Lambert, assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Education Services with Visalia Unified. Administrator of the Year finalists are Frances Holdbrooks, assistant superintendent from Lindsay Unified, and Dale Norton, Dean of Academic Services at the College of the Sequoias.

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Terri Fishbough, a third-grade teacher and curriculum coordinator with the Oak Valley School in Tulare, will receive the award for Teacher of the Year. Teacher of the Year finalists included Pam Babcock, a first-grade teacher from Burton Elementary in Porterville, and Becky Richert, a first-grade teacher with Linwood Elementary in Visalia.

The award for the School Employee of the Year will go to Janie Elson. Ms. Elson is the Healthy Start Director with Lindsay Unified. School Employee of the Year finalists include Steve LaMar, a theater technician with the College of the Sequoias, and Manuel Rico, director of Custodial and Grounds for Visalia Unified.

The purpose of the Excellence in Education Awards is to recognize school employees in Tulare County who exemplify exceptional qualities and commitment to Tulare County students. All nominees will be honored at a breakfast ceremony November 1, 2001, hosted by Educational Employees Credit Union.

The Tulare County Office of Education's own Susanna Garza, transportation assistant within the Special Services Division, was nominated for School Employee of the Year. Ms. Garza has worked in Special Services since 1992.

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