

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

July 19, 2001

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Partner Recognition Program Presents 29 Awards

Nearly 350 Tulare County educators, business leaders and administrators attended the Fifth Annual School-to-Career and Workforce Development Partnership Recognition Luncheon Wednesday, July 18, 2001.

Twenty-nine business, agency, community and education partners were recognized for their ongoing efforts in creating quality workplace and classroom opportunities for Tulare County students and adults. To close the program, keynote speaker and former standup comedian Jim Pelley delivered a hilarious 45-minute presentation on the use of humor to decrease stress and embrace risk.

Tulare County Superintendent of Schools and Co-chair of the Tulare County Workforce Coalition Jim Vidak noted, "It has always been our hope that recognition events like this can become a springboard for expanding and enhancing collaboration between business, education and the community. Our School-to-Career staff was delighted with the turnout."

"It's exciting and rewarding to recognize volunteers who have devoted so much of their valuable time to agencies and schools throughout the County. But more than that, this event gives people the opportunity to

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see the talent working in our communities,” noted School-to-Career Project Director Randy Wallace.

2001 School-to-Career/Workforce Development Partnership Award recipients included the following companies, agencies and individuals.

Proteus Inc. - Technology Demonstration Youth Program
State of California Employment Development Department
Dr. Dick Heers, Cross Street Veterinary
Foster Farms (Porterville)
Deloitte & Touche
Marie Pinto, Tulare Joint Union High School District
Bea Soxman, Visalia Unified School District
Factory 2-U
David Hobbs, Monrovia Nursery
Radisson Hotel
Steve Holdridge, Tulare Tech Prep
City of Porterville
Taco Bell (Lindsay and Porterville)
Home Depot (Visalia)
Patty Bohling, WalMart Distribution (Porterville)
Vicki Howes, CSET
David J. Maciel, College of the Sequoias
Michelle Cardoza, Tulare Western High School
Sonya Brown, Tulare Nursing and Rehabilitation Hospital
Tulare County Alcoholism Council
Manuel Lucero, Dinuba High School
Porterville Developmental Center
Mel Borbolla, Tulare County Probation
Tom Jenkins, Kaweah Delta Health Care District
Wendi Oliveira, Valley Staffing Service
Kelly Morgan, Sierra View District Hospital
Don Ritter, United Parcel Service

Special Recognition was give to Pam Vaughn of Tucoemas Federal Credit Union and former newscaster John

Wallace, now of West Care Inc. For more information on the School-to-Career program, contact Randy Wallace at

733-6101.

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