

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

January 28, 2002

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Job Shadowing/Career Connection Opportunities in February

Visalia: On Friday, February 1, over one million young people will go into workplaces across the country as part of National Groundhog Job Shadow Day 2002. As a result, businesses, schools, non-profits, government agencies and associations across the country are pledging their support of Job Shadow Day 2002. The Tulare County Office of Education and the Tulare County Workforce Coalition are pleased to be part of this national initiative, not just for the day, but throughout the year.

In Tulare County, more than 1500 students annually participate in Job Shadow activities. In addition to traditional, short-term job shadow activities through local school and community-based projects, thousands of Tulare County students participate in mentoring, internship, and work experience projects and programs which further develop an understanding for the opportunities and expectations of today's workplace.

As part of its commitment to Job Shadow 2002, Monster.com is once again supporting a Virtual Job Shadowing program where students will be able to shadow virtual "career mentors" via the Internet. The Virtual Job Shadowing program is available at www.jobshadow.org throughout the month of February.

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“I’m proud that we are able to encourage local employers to host students for Job Shadow Day,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “For some students, this may be their first introduction to the workplace. And for others this experience may help to solidify their personal goals beyond high school.”

Career development is a life-long process that begins before young adults set out to find their first job. The Tulare County Office of Education’s School-to-Career project and area schools are excited to help match students with mentors who will introduce them to some of the career possibilities available today. Shadowing a workplace mentor can be an important first step for any student and is an experience you don’t want to miss. For more information on how you can become involved with local schools and youth-serving agencies, contact the Tulare County School-to-Career office at 733-6101.

Career Connections

For those serious about helping young people prepare for an increasingly demanding future, visit PathFinder on the School-to-Career website at www.tcoe.org/careerweb. Pathfinder is an advanced Internet-based, matching, placement and data management tool designed to assist local students in uncovering options for their future.

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