

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

March 13, 2002

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Federal Child Care Advocate to Speak at Conference April 6**

Patty Siegel, founder and executive director of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, will be the keynote speaker at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Care Conference on Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Visalia Convention Center. Siegel spoke at the White House Conference on Child Care in the late 90's and advocated for expanded child care funding at the federal level.

“Our Child Care Program serves thousands of young children in Tulare County with extraordinary education, health, nutrition, parent involvement and social services,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools, Jim Vidak. “This conference is an excellent opportunity for our staff and child care providers to gain new information and training to better serve our children.”

The conference will offer a wide range of workshops on topics such as literacy, working with puppets, marketing your child care business and infant care. Some workshops will be offered in Spanish. Cost is \$45 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Participants must register by March 29. There will be no registration at the door. For information, call Tulare County Child Care Resource & Referral at 651-0862 or (800) 613-6262.

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The conference is sponsored by Tulare County Office of Education's Resource & Referral program, the Tulare County Child Care Planning Council, San Joaquin Valley Regional Resource Center, College of the Sequoias, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Visalia YMCA and Health Net.

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