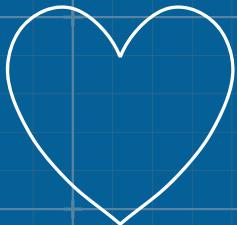


TKCCC Ninth Annual Counselor Conference

BLUEPRINT for SUCCESS

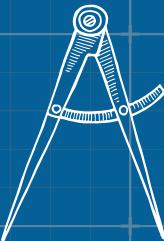
Drafting the Future - One Student at a Time



Constructing hope



Creating opportunity



Building potential

January 28, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tulare County Office of Education

Tulare County
Office of Education
Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools



WELCOME

Welcome to the Ninth Annual TKCCC Counselor Conference!

We are delighted to welcome you and sincerely appreciate you making time to be here today. Amid full calendars and growing responsibilities, your decision to invest in your professional growth speaks volumes about your commitment to students and to the future you help shape every day. This conference was designed with you in mind — to offer inspiration, practical strategies, and renewed momentum for the vital work you lead.

This year's theme, "Blueprint for Success: Drafting the Future — One Student at a Time," reflects the intentional, thoughtful role counselors play in student success. Like architects of possibility, you help students design pathways that align with their strengths, interests, and aspirations. You translate uncertainty into opportunity, helping students move from ideas to plans — and from plans to action.

Counseling is rarely linear work. The guidance you provide, the questions you ask, and the encouragement you offer often lay the foundation long before results are visible. Yet every conversation, every connection, and every moment of advocacy contributes to a stronger framework for student success. You are helping students build futures that are not only attainable, but sustainable and meaningful.

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and refine the blueprints that guide your work. Through engaging sessions, collaborative dialogue, and shared learning, we hope you leave with new tools, fresh perspectives, and a renewed sense of purpose — ready to continue drafting futures with confidence and clarity.

Thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and unwavering belief in students. Your impact extends far beyond this conference and far beyond what can be measured. Together, let's continue building pathways to success — one student at a time.

Welcome, and enjoy the conference.



William (Bill) Davis
Administrator, College & Career Readiness

Tulare County
Office of Education
Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

SPECIAL THANKS

Floral Arrangements by:
El Diamante High School students
Visalia Unified School District



Balloons provided by:
Monica Galindo
Decorations by Monica



Desserts prepared by:
Mt. Whitney High School students
Visalia Unified School District



Photography by:
Redwood High School students
Visalia Unified School District



Lunch prepared by:
Ruiz Catering



Programs printed by:
Karen Muro
TCOE Graphics | Production Center

Tulare County Office of Education
Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

GRAPHICS | PRODUCTION CENTER
graphic design, copy and printing services

Resource Fair Exhibitors:

California College Guidance Initiative
CHARACTER COUNTS!
College Board
College of the Sequoias CTE
Fresno State Recruitment & Special Programs

IMAGO

TCOE | Student Future Ready Events
TCOE | Behavioral Health Services
TCOE | Foster and Homeless Youth Services
Valley Strong Credit Union

Tulare County Office of Education Support:

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools
Rob Herman, Communications Director
College & Career Readiness Team
Information Systems Team

Chris Meyer, Assistant Superintendent, DSS
Nayirah Dosu, Communications Specialist
Maintenance & Operations Team

KEYNOTE

Denise Cabanilla

Denise Cabanilla is the senior director of Higher Education and Adult Learning at the Imperial County Office of Education. In this role, she leads a dynamic team focused on key initiatives including college and career readiness, workforce development, adult education, and comprehensive school counseling. She also provides support and guidance to school counselors across the county and is a proud founding member of the County Offices of Education Leadership for School Counseling (COELSC), a statewide leadership network.

With more than 20 years of experience, Denise is deeply committed to advancing the education and well-being of students, staff, and families in Imperial County. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to expanding access, fostering personal growth, and promoting participation in, and completion of, post-secondary education.



CLOSING KEYNOTE

Edgar Blunt



Edgar is a shenanigator and hugger — dedicated to making soft skills feel less like training and more like transformation. He designs experiences that build empathy, courage, and lasting impact.

As the CEO and founder of IMAGO, and chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board, Edgar brings over 20 years of leadership training experience. He has partnered with school districts, workforce boards, and businesses across the country to rethink how we grow human potential in education and work.

Guided by his belief to “seek to love” and “embrace the awkward,” Edgar imagines a world rooted in authentic relationships — where people are equipped to meet life’s challenges with compassion and clarity.

If your curiosity is piqued, come find him — he’d love to connect.

SCHEDULE At-A-Glance

8:00 a.m.

Networking & Welcome

8:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Denise Cabanilla

9:30 a.m.

Resource Fair

10:10 a.m.

Breakout Session 1

11:10 a.m.

Breakout Session 2

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:10 p.m.

Breakout Session 3

2:00 p.m.

Closing Keynote: Edgar Blunt

3:00 p.m.

Concludes



Building potential

It starts with counselors helping students see more in themselves than they sometimes believe is possible.

Session 1 Workshops

10:10 - 11:00 a.m.

How to Master the Common App

Redwood C

A guided, section-by-section tour of the Common App, highlighting insider tips and often-missed opportunities that help students tell their stories clearly and confidently.

Becky Hanson, Independent Educational Consultant | BEC Consulting

Every Day Counts: Tier 1 & Tier 2 Strategies for Improving Student Attendance and Academics in Elementary School Counseling

Redwood D

Hear from Visalia Unified elementary school counselors as they share Tier 1 and Tier 2 strategies that strengthen attendance, engagement, and academic success. Participants will leave with practical, school-ready ideas to enhance student outcomes.

Krista Taylor, Coordinator, College and Career Readiness | Visalia Unified School District

Elizabeth Magallon, M.A., Elicia Cisneros, MA, PPS, and Aaliyah Celeste Marin, School Counselors | Visalia USD

Setting up a Comprehensive College and Career Lesson Schedule for all Learners, Incorporating CCGI

Redwood E

Learn how Lindsay Unified uses CaliforniaColleges.edu to track student interests, guide college and career planning, and build a comprehensive 6–12 scope and sequence using new lessons and tools.

Dr. Ken Spencer, Assistant Principal of College & Career | Lindsay High School

Monica Godoy, Jose Magallanes, and Marcela Serratos, School Counselors | Lindsay High School

Micro-WBL: Transforming Student Careers in 15 Minutes or Less

Redwood F

WBL doesn't have to be complicated to be transformative. Explore micro-experiences like speed networking and mini-interviews, with practical examples, event layouts, and ready-to-use tools.

Shelsy Hutchison, College & Career Engagement Specialist | Tulare County Office of Education

Building Bridges: SEL Family Night

Cedar

Explore an innovative SEL family event model through interactive activities and take away tools and strategies to create a schoolwide SEL experience that strengthens emotional intelligence, resilience, and positive relationships.

Brandon Castro and Diego Castro, MA/PPSC, School Counselors | Merced City School District

Empower Students with Career Self-Management Tools

Sugar Pine

Discover free career exploration tools from the California Career Resource Network that support equity, engagement, and readiness. Learn how to help students build career plans, explore pathways, and prepare for success using CDE-supported resources.

Laura Walls, Coordinator, California Career Resource Network | California Department of Education

Session descriptions have been abbreviated for program formatting. Scan the QR code to view full session descriptions on the conference website. Presenters are listed alphabetically by last name within each session. Click the workshop title under the presenter's bio to view the full description.



Session 2 Workshops

11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

A High School Counselor's Toolkit for English Learner Success

Redwood C

This practical workshop introduces "A High School Counselor's Toolkit for English Learner Success" by Laurie Olsen, a comprehensive resource grounded in California's English Learner Roadmap. Participants will explore actionable strategies that support the academic success, social-emotional well-being, and college and career readiness of English Learner students.

Gabriela Guzman, Leadership Support Services Administrator | Tulare County Office of Education

Emilia Wade, College & Career Engagement Specialist | Tulare County Office of Education

Counselor Strategies for Financial Aid Completion

Redwood D

Learn how Tulare Joint achieved a 90% FAFSA/CADAA submission rate during the 2024–25 school year. This session highlights the tools, systems, and counselor-led strategies used to increase student engagement, monitor data, and support completion.

Salvador Rodriguez, Counselor | Tulare Western High School, Tulare Joint Union HSD

Kim Madrona, Counselor | Tulare Western High School, Tulare Joint Union HSD

Jennifer Padilla, Counselor | Mission Oak High School, Tulare Joint Union HSD

Graduate Profiles: Preparing Future-Ready Students

Redwood E

Explore how Madera Unified's Graduate Profile prepares students for future success through six core competencies: Think, Communicate, Collaborate, Produce, Adapt, and Contribute. This session highlights hands-on learning examples across academic and technical pathways and offers strategies for integrating these competencies into classroom instruction.

Kristin McKenna, Director of College and Career Readiness | Madera Unified School District

¡Lotería, con corazón! ❤️ Reimagining the beloved game to spark Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in every classroom.

Redwood F

This engaging, hands-on session introduces Social Emotional Lotería, a bilingual and culturally responsive SEL curriculum that builds self-awareness and social awareness through Latinx identity and storytelling. Participants will explore interactive activities and learn how the curriculum blends neuroscience-informed practices with culturally sustaining pedagogy and CASEL competencies to amplify student voice, belonging, and emotional literacy.

Dr. Anna Heinbuch, Founder & CEO | NeuroNurture Apoyo Educativo, LLC

Complex Trauma & Disengagement in School Settings

Cedar

This session explores how complex trauma and chronic stress can cause students to disengage, shut down, or dissociate in school settings. Participants will learn to recognize these survival responses, differentiate them from defiance, and apply Tier 1-Tier 2 trauma-informed strategies, SEL integration, and practical tools to re-engage overwhelmed students.

Mayra Leon Fogg, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker II | Tulare COE, Behavioral Health Services

Fida Taha, LMFT, PPS, Clinical Social Worker II | Tulare COE, Behavioral Health Services

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Session 3 Workshops

1:10 - 2:00 p.m.

From Pre/Post to Progress: Measuring What Matters in School Counseling

Redwood C

Move beyond counting participation and one-time surveys to explore meaningful progress monitoring in school counseling. This interactive session focuses on assessing changes in student attitudes, skills, and outcomes over time, using perception and outcome data aligned to program goals to tell a clearer story of impact.

Heather Jones, Data & Analytics Specialist | Tulare County Office of Education

Lisa Parkin, CTE Counselor | Exeter Unified School District

Cultivating Presence and Connection Through the Practice of Check-In

Redwood D

This experiential session explores check-in as a simple yet powerful practice for building presence, connection, and shared purpose in classrooms and meetings. Grounded in psychology and systems awareness, participants will learn a clear, adaptable structure for leading check-ins and strengthening reflection, well-being, and group connection.

Lisa Lemus, Administrator | Tulare County Office of Education

Creating Opportunities for Students by Improving "A-G" completion

Redwood E

Learn how Madera Unified improved A-G completion by using data-driven course placement and intentional student supports. Participants will explore how to leverage CaliforniaColleges.edu enhanced UC/CSU eligibility reports to identify opportunities for course placement, credit recovery, and expanded postsecondary options.

Selma Gonzalez, Director of Engagement & Implementation Central Region | CCGI

Sarah White, Counselor on Special Assignment | Madera Unified School District

Beyond the Office: The School Counselor as Community Connector & Change Agent

Redwood F

This session explores how school counselors serve as bridge-builders between schools, families, and communities. Participants will examine tools, mindsets, and real-world strategies that elevate student voice, strengthen partnerships, and position counselors as advocates and community change agents advancing belonging and equity.

Leslie Kelly, Program Manager | Tulare County Office of Education

Danielle Quihuiz, Counselor Resident | Hanford West High School

Future-Proofing Your Program: Navigating Administrator Relationships to Sustain Comprehensive Counseling Systems

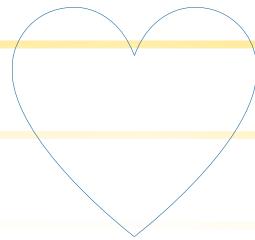
Cedar

Discover strategies for sustaining strong, student-centered counseling programs amid leadership and district changes. This session focuses on building trust-based relationships with administrators, using data to demonstrate impact, and advocating for programs that remain effective and supported over time.

Dr. Brandon Gridiron, Principal | Redwood High School, Visalia Unified School District

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Constructing Hope

It isn't accidental. It's built through supporting growth, creating a sense of belonging, and exercising empathy and compassion every day.

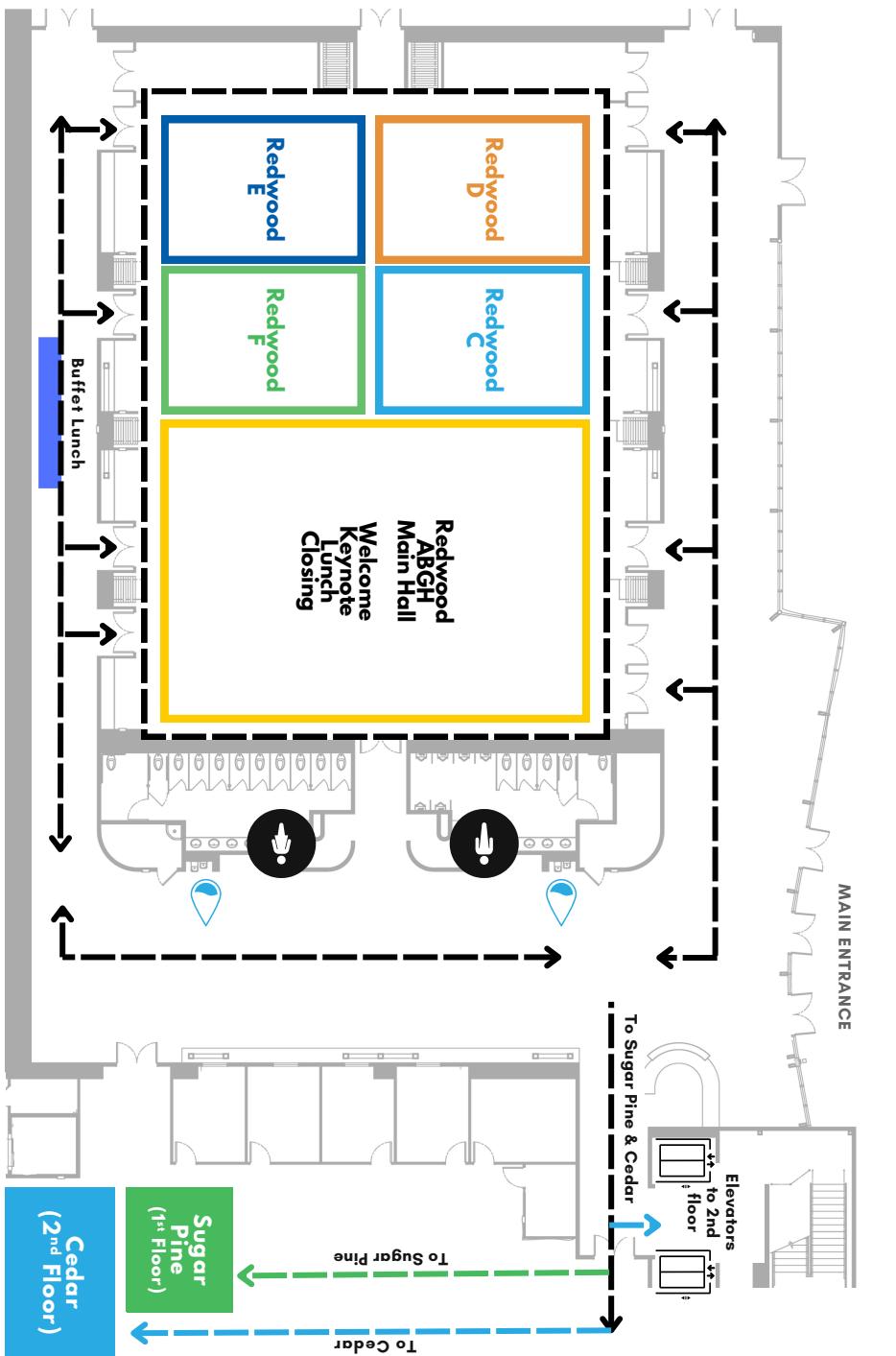
NOTES



Creating Opportunity

It happens when
counselors break down
barriers, advocate for
access to all, and connect
students to real-world
possibilities.

TCOE CONFERENCE CENTER MAP



Tulare County
Office of Education
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