

news galleryweek

October 2, 2019

Registration open for UC Merced/SCICON Field Science Weekend



High school students and teachers interested in developing their scientific research skills are encouraged to register for the Field Science Weekend scheduled for October 25 – 27. Held at the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station on the Circle J-Norris Ranch, the event focuses on a long-term monitoring of the site's oak forest.

This event includes hands-on skills training with natural resource professionals and scientists from UC Merced. All meals are provided, as well as lodging Friday and Saturday nights at SCICON. Evening activities include leadership and teamwork initiatives, and a night hike. The cost of the event is \$55/person, or \$500 for 10 people from the same school. To register, call Nancy Bruce at (559) 539-2263.

Photo above:

~ Students that participate in the Field Science Weekend will continue the oak mortality study begun in June by interns of the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station.

The Center receives federal teacher residency grant in partnership with Visalia Unified



TCOE's California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center) partnered with California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), and Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) to win a five-year, \$6.58 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant (TQP). The TQP will fund a new program entitled Teacher Residency for Rural Education (TRRE), which has been designed for graduate students seeking to obtain their single subject credential in math, science, English, or special education while earning a master's degree in education and participating in computer science training.

Donna Glassman-Sommer, the Center's executive director, reports that TRRE will include annual cohorts of 20-25 teacher candidates who will gain a year-long clinical experience in Visalia Unified's high-need classrooms while taking credential and master's coursework through CSUB. As an added bonus, teacher candidates in each cohort will be paid a living wage.

"This grant award is a fantastic progression for the Center in its work to solve California's teacher shortage," said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "The collaboration between our office, Visalia Unified, and Cal State Bakersfield will certainly become a model for district and university partnerships across the state."

In addition to partnerships with CSUB and VUSD, TRRE involves collaboration with the Stanford Teacher Education Program, the Bank Street School, EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, and a cadre of community-based partners committed to supporting the development of high-quality teachers for high-need, rural students.

TRRE continues the work of the Center, which was created in 2017 to help meet California's teacher demand through collaborative leadership, personalized digital pathways to teaching, and a repository for best practices in recruitment, selection, and hiring.

For more information on the TRRE program, contact Donna Glassman-Sommer at donnags@tcoe.org.

Trainings bolster school supports for English learners



Last week, members of the California Department of Education’s (CDE) Technical Assistance Monitoring Office for Title I and Title III Programs visited the Tulare County Office of Education to provide information on new laws that affect English learners. Presenters Stephanie Woo, Linda Moscatelli, and Heather Bell addressed ways attendees could improve services for English learners, engage families, collect and maintain records of their efforts, report allowable expenditures, and develop a school plan for student achievement (SPSA). Approximately 75 school district representatives from Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare counties attended.

Organized by the Leadership Support Services (LSS) department and Samantha Tate, who serves as the Region VII EL specialist on the CDE Title III committee, the training was developed in response to questions educators had about the laws. The presenters used the Federal Program Monitoring instruments and tools to guide the discussion, with the goal of making the term “compliance” more meaningful and relevant to district or site administrators.



Leadership Support Services will continue its support of school leadership teams addressing the needs of their EL populations this year with two events and an ongoing network.

On November 4, LSS will begin a two-part institute in partnership with Educational Resource Services entitled *Implementing the EL Roadmap for Leadership Teams* with Laurie Olsen. The second day of the institute will be held January 23. Ms. Olsen is the co-chair of the working group that created the California English Learner Roadmap policy. She is also the founder of SEAL, a research-based model of dual language education now implemented in 20 California districts. Ms. Olsen will be joined by Martha Hernandez, director of Policy and Initiatives for

Californians Together, a coalition of organizations focused on improving instruction for English learners. Registration for this free event is available at tulare.k12oms.org/147-172073.

On November 5, Educational Resource Services will host the annual Region VII event *Best Results for English Learners*. This conference will be held at the DoubleTree Conference Center in downtown Fresno and feature Elizabeth Jiménez Salinas, a pioneer in bilingual education and advocate for English learners. Ms. Jiménez Salinas has authored several Spanish language children's books, as well as handbooks for teachers and English learner support materials for more than 25 K-12 textbooks. Registration for the event is \$250 per person and available at tulare.k12oms.org/147-166551.

The EL Update & Network is a four-part meeting of Tulare County educators exchanging ideas and exploring model practices in order to improve outcomes for English learners. The most up-to-date information from California Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education will be shared to support districts in working toward achieving English language proficiency and meeting academic content standards. Topics will include Title III updates, Federal Program Monitoring (FPM), the California accountability system, parent engagement, English Language Development (ELD), ELD standards, and English Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). The next meeting of EL Update & Network is November 19 in the Redwood Conference Center. Registration is available at tulare.k12oms.org/147-167411.

For additional information on district and site supports for English learners, contact Samantha Tate at samantha.tate@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Stephanie Woo, a member of the CDE Technical Assistance Monitoring Office for Title I and Title III Programs, was one of three presenters last week who spoke to district leaders about ways that they can comply with new laws supporting English learner instruction.

Early Stars awards early childhood education program participants in improvement program

On September 18, the Early Stars Program recognized 74 early childhood education programs for their participation in the program's year-long quality improvement process. Programs that participated included TCOE Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) preschools, California State Preschools (CSPP), inclusion classrooms, private preschools, and family child care providers.

Lorena Castillo, assistant administrator of ECEP, reports that of the 74 participants, 46 programs were formally



rated, receiving three, four, or five stars. Seventeen of the 46 rated programs had been through the process before, returning to be re-rated. In rating a program, Early Stars staff assess specific qualities, including instructional time with children, screening children for developmental milestones, and the completion of additional child development training. Based on the initial assessment, the program then provides participants with a clear plan, resources, and trainings toward quality improvement. For programs that complete the program and achieve four- or five-star ratings, monetary awards are given.

“We are pleased to see so many Tulare County early childhood education programs participating in the Early Stars Program and taking advantage of the guidance and supports offered,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “Each program’s commitment to continuous improvement translates into positive benefits for Tulare County’s youngest learners.”

For more information on the incentives available to early childhood education programs that participate in the Early Stars program, contact Lorena Castillo at lorena.castillo@cc.tcoe.org. A list of 2018-19 rated programs is available at tcoe.org/EarlyStars/RatedSites.

Coming Up!

- **October 4**
Circle J Family Astronomy Night
6:30 - 8:30pm, Circle J-Norris Ranch, Springville
To reserve a spot, contact Nancy Bruce at circlej@ocsnet.net or (559) 539-2263.
- **October 20 - 26**
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week
For more information, contact Kelley Petty at kelleyp@tcoe.org or (559) 740-4303.
- **October 21 - 25**
Red Ribbon Week
[More information](#)

View more events at tcoe.org/CalendarofEvents.

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Public Information Officer

Contributors: Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Lorena White, Nancy Bruce, Donna Glassman-Sommer, Samantha Tate, and Lorena Castillo.

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