

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development plans community forum

A recent needs assessment commissioned by the Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development reported that only 23% of Tulare County's 11,500 infants and toddlers with parents at work received child care services. While the statistics for older preschool children are better, only 39% of the 16,500 children were served with child care. These and other eye-opening statistics were shared by Dr. Steve Roussos with Community Initiatives for Collective Impact at the Council's 11th Annual Legislative Event last week. Dr. Roussos was retained by the Council to work with numerous Tulare County agencies in preparing the needs assessment report.



Following Dr. Roussos' presentation, Dr. Alex Elliott, administrator for TCOE Early Childhood Education, challenged the audience to continue the conversation about the urgent, unmet need for child care in Tulare County at a Community Forum on November 19. Scheduled for 8:00 until 10:00 a.m. at the Doe Avenue Complex, the free forum is designed to help guide the Council in bringing a solution to the child care shortage. View a flyer about the Community Forum at www.tularecountykids.org/ForumFlyer. To register to attend, visit www.tularecountykids.org/ForumReg.



At the conclusion of the Legislative Event, the Council presented its annual Impact Awards to two organizations. For their help in contributing to the needs assessment, the Impact Award went to First 5 Tulare County and TCOE Early Childhood Education.

For more information about the Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development, visit www.tularecountykids.org.

Photos above:

~ Dr. Steve Roussos presenting at the 11th Annual Legislative Event on findings from a year-long needs assessment study conducted by the Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development.

~ Dr. Alex Elliott (left), administrator for TCOE Early Childhood Education, and Michele Morrow-Eaton (right), executive director for First 5 Tulare County, pose with Assemblyman Devon Mathis. TCOE Early Childhood Education and First 5 Tulare County were recipients of the Impact Award, presented by the Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development.

University Prep student chosen to participate in Ivy League Program

Samaria Comonfort-Lopez, a junior at University Preparatory High School (UPHS), has been chosen to represent the Migrant Education Program Region VIII in the 2020 Ivy League Project (ILP). ILP was founded by Martín Mares in 1992 to encourage economically-disadvantaged students to apply to some of America's most prestigious universities. Through ILP, nearly 300 young people have obtained degrees from Ivy League universities in the past 20 years.

As part of the Ivy League Project, Samaria, who plans to study Occupational Therapy, will have the opportunity to interact with admissions officers and alumni who have extensive admission selection experience. She will visit Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Columbia, MIT, and Penn during her spring break next year.



“We wish Samaria great success in this program,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “I would also like to thank Sofia Cook, UPHS’ English Language Learner teacher, for her support, and the Migrant Education Program for sponsoring Samaria and 19 other Tulare and Kings county students.”

Annual Student Art Exhibition opened this week

The annual Student Art Exhibition opened this week in the lobby of the TCOE Administration Building at 6200 South Mooney Boulevard in Visalia. The exhibition features over 300 pieces of art and sculpture from students in school districts R-W. The exhibition will remain on display through December 30. Included in the exhibition is a piece entitled *Banksy Galaxy* by Jaycee Silva, an eighth-grade student at Live Oak Middle School in Tulare.

From January 21 through February 28, visitors will be treated to artwork from schools in Tulare County districts A-P. In March, pieces selected as "Best of Show" from the November-December and January-February exhibitions will be displayed. A public open house honoring the "Best of Show" student artists will be held 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. on March 4 in the lobby.



For more information, contact Kate Stover, visual and performing arts staff development and curriculum specialist, at (559) 741-0809.

***A Holiday in the City* exhibition returns this year**



Through December 23, visitors to the TCOE Administration Building will be treated to the fourth annual *A Holiday in the City* – an exhibition of porcelain buildings, figures, plazas, and parks depicting a delightful holiday cityscape of the past. Donated to the TCOE Foundation in 2016, *A Holiday in the City* features dozens of illuminated homes, civic buildings, businesses, churches, and restaurants covering nearly 70 linear feet of space. Dotted among the buildings are hundreds of figures – carolers, ice skaters, shoppers, and diners – all bundled up for the holidays. The exhibition will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The TCOE Administration Building is located at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia. No reservations are required and admission is free.

Coming Up!

- **November 4 - December 23**
A Holiday in the City
(annual exhibition of holiday porcelain buildings and figurines)
TCOE Administration Building Lobby, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia
- **November 12 - December 30**
Student Art Exhibition
TCOE Administration Building Lobby, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia
[More information.](#)
- **November 14**
University Preparatory High School Information Night
6:00 - 7:00pm, College of Sequoias Visalia campus, Yokut Room 9
[More information.](#)
- **November 16**
eBirding for Beginners at Circle J
9:00am - 12:00pm, Circle J-Norris Ranch, Springville
[More information.](#)
Reserve a spot by contacting Nancy Bruce at circlej@ocsnet.net or (559) 539-2263.
- **November 16**
Habitat Restoration Volunteer Day at Circle J
1:00 - 4:30pm, Circle J-Norris Ranch, Springville
[More information.](#)
Reserve a spot by contacting Nancy Bruce at circlej@ocsnet.net or (559) 539-2263.
- **November 21 - 23**
Theatre Company Fall Musical *Frozen JR*
L.J. Williams Theater, 1001 W. Main St., Visalia
[More information.](#)
- **November 22**
Planetarium Public Show
6:00pm: *Earth, Moon, and Sun*
7:00pm: *From Earth to the Universe*
Peña Planetarium, 11535 Avenue 264, Visalia
[More information.](#)

View more events at tcoe.org/CalendarofEvents.

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To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit tcoe.org/GetTheGallery, or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.
