

news galleryweek

September 25, 2019

Equity Conference planned for January 27



Staff from TCOE's Instructional Services and Special Services Divisions have begun working on a large conference that addresses the importance of student equity. Scheduled for January 27 in the Redwood Conference Center, the TCOE Equity Conference will feature keynote presentations by Dr. Paul Gorski, founder and lead equity specialist for the Equity Literacy Institute, and Dr. Victor Rios, dean of Social Sciences and professor of Sociology at University of California, Santa Barbara. The conference, which runs from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., will also feature a variety of breakout sessions addressing student equity in all school settings and programs. Registration for the conference opens October 1 for Tulare County educators at a cost of just \$15 per person. For registration information, contact Brook Killingsworth at brookk@tcoe.org.



Photos above: ~ The First Annual Tulare County Office of Education Equity Conference, planned for January 27, will feature keynote addresses by (left) Dr. Paul Gorski of the Equity Literacy Institute and (right) Dr. Victor Rios of University of California, Santa Barbara. Registration for the Equity Conference opens to Tulare County educators on October 1.

Educators of the Year honored in partnership with the Central California Chinese Cultural Center



Last week, TCOE and the Central California Chinese Cultural Center honored three extraordinary teachers at the 26th Annual Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Awards.

John Lujan of Strathmore High School, Anderson Schmidt of Sunnyside Union School, and Terri Dillard of Rockford School were celebrated for their excellent service to Tulare County students.

The Confucius Birthday/Educators of the Year Awards is a partnership between TCOE and the Chinese Cultural Center. Each year, one elementary, one middle, and one high school teacher is honored. A dinner is held in their honor and a video that profiles their accomplishments is shown. To see the video, visit tcoe.org/EOTY.

Photo above:

~ Honorees in the 26th Annual Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Awards were (l-r) John Lujan, a mathematics teacher at Strathmore High School; Anderson Schmidt, a physical education teacher at Sunnyside Union School in Strathmore; and Terri Dillard, a first-grade teacher at Rockford School in Porterville.

TCOE medals in Corporate Games

On Friday, September 20, Team TCOE began competing in the City of Visalia's 11th Annual Corporate Games. On Sunday, TCOE employees took home a silver medal in the foot golf competition.



Corporate Games is a business-to-business tournament where companies compete against each other in a series of 19 exciting events. To support Team TCOE in upcoming evening and Saturday events running through October 3, view the [competition schedule](#).



Photos above:

~ The silver medal-winning TCOE Foot Golf team included (l-r) Joe Cadena (Information Systems), Patricia Aguilera (Behavioral Health Services), Juan Ramirez (Alternative Achievement Program), and Isaac Celedon (Information Systems).

~ (l-r) Abigail Hernandez (Internal Business Services), Cori Bernal (General Services), and Abigail's daughter Destinee perform in the Lip Synch competition to Meghan Trainer's Me Too.

Step Up Youth Challenge begins with record-breaking 39 teams



Last week, over 300 students attended the Step Up Youth Challenge Summit at Visalia Rawhide Ballpark. The students represented a record-breaking 39 middle and high school teams. These teams will work for the next five months to create projects that impact their schools and communities.

Past Step Up Youth Challenge projects have addressed a wide variety of topics, including bullying, suicide prevention, literacy, homelessness, and health and nutrition. On April 2, students will gather at the Visalia Fox Theatre to receive grant awards for the top Youth Challenge projects.

The Youth Challenge is a partnership between TCOE, the County of Tulare, and Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency. For more information on the Step Up Youth Challenge, contact Kelley Petty at kelleyp@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Students from Alpaugh High School are pictured discussing plans for their Step Up Youth Challenge project. Last year, the team won a grant for their community garden project.

TUPE leadership training motivates youth



The annual Friday Night Live TUPE (Tobacco Use Prevention Education) Leadership Training was held on September 18. The event was coordinated by the TCOE CHOICES Prevention Program and featured sessions on the role of a leader, time management, the importance of good character in leadership, social media smarts, and the dangers of tobacco and electronic smoking devices.

Students returned to their campuses energized and full of ideas to help their teachers and administrators create positive campus cultures. For information on youth leadership training, contact Gene Mendes at genem@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Students from La Joya Middle School were among the presenters at the annual TUPE Leadership Training. These students assisted CHARACTER COUNTS! Coordinator Kelley Petty with her presentation on character in leadership.

Coming Up!

- **September 27**
Circle J Family Astronomy Night
7:00 - 9:00pm, Circle J-Norris Ranch, Springville
To reserve a spot, contact Nancy Bruce at circlej@ocsnet.net or (559) 539-2263.
- **September 27**
Kids of Character nomination deadline
Nominate your exceptional students.
[More information.](#)
- **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.

View more events at tcoe.org/CalendarofEvents.

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