

Registration now open for tech-based educator training, student event

STUDENT TECH SHOWDOWN

Registration is now open for the Fifth Annual Tech Rodeo, a full day of virtual learning for educators, administrators, and coaches to meet the needs of students in all grade levels and content areas. Registration is also open for the virtual Student Tech Showdown, a technology-based competition first held at Tech Rodeo in January 2020.

Scheduled for Saturday, January 16, Tech Rodeo will offer attendees choices of interactive sessions exploring instructional technology on a wide variety of devices for today's classrooms. The event will also offer attendees the opportunity to meet several published education technology authors and access a variety of three-minute instructional quick tips. For an event schedule and registration information, visit tcoe.org/TechRodeo.



The Student Tech Showdown, also scheduled for January 16, is a competition created to integrate International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students into a competition involving research and presentation skills. Through the Student Tech Showdown, students in grades 4-12 – working in teams of two or three – will have the opportunity to showcase their research, digital citizenship, collaboration, communication, and design skills through the use of technology.

Prior to the event, student teams will research this year's scenario – bridging the digital divide. At the Student Tech Showdown, teams will utilize their research to create a presentation on the spot. Utilizing feedback from other teams, participants will have an opportunity to refine their work before making a final presentation. Educators attending the Tech Rodeo will have the opportunity to observe the students for inspiration on creating similar lessons in their classrooms. At the end of the competition, winning teams in grade categories 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12 will be announced.

Teachers interested in more information on entering a team in the Student Tech Showdown are encouraged to contact Katherine Goyette at katherine.goyette@tcoe.org. The deadline to register is December 11.

Annual CAC calendar highlights students with special needs finding success through distance learning

Earlier this month, the Special Services Division distributed thousands of copies of the annual Community Advisory Committee (CAC) calendar to schools, community organizations, and clinics. Entitled “Meeting Challenges through Distance Learning,” the 2021 calendar features monthly profiles of students with special needs adjusting to learning at home.

Each month, the calendar highlights different Tulare County students and the successes they have found during distance learning. Profiles include students receiving speech therapy, behavioral health services, coping and self-regulation skills instruction, and reading, writing, communication, and motor skills development. “More than any other year, this calendar depicts how students, parents, and teachers have adapted and succeeded in difficult circumstances,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “We applaud the creativity of the staff and parents in meeting the instructional needs of some very special young people!”



Top Left: Carita Moreno, 8 years old, working on letter sounds with the Startall program.
Middle Left: Sofia Garcia, 8 years old, working on paragraph writing skills, a work packet was provided.
Center: Andy Peña, 10 years old, working on paragraph writing skills, a work packet was provided.
Middle Right: Carita Moreno, 10 years old, practicing communication skills using picture cards.
Top Right: Sofia Garcia, 8 years old, working on paragraph writing skills, a work packet was provided.
Bottom Left: Gustavo Velasquez, 10 years old, practicing communication skills using picture cards.
Bottom Right: Carita Moreno, 8 years old, working on letter sounds with the Startall program.



State education code established the creation of CACs. In Tulare County, this 16-member committee is made up of parents of students with special needs, parents of general education students, general and special education teachers, representatives from community agencies, and a student or adult with special needs. The organization has created an annual calendar highlighting special education for more than 25 years.

Pat Greco continues improvement work with district leaders

On November 13, Dr. Pat Greco held the first of three trainings as part of this year's Learning and Leadership Forum. Dr. Greco's presentation built on her work with district leaders conducted last year and included tools and approaches for developing culture, leadership, and strategies for organizational improvement. In her session, she explored the purpose of leader rounding and its role in connecting with employees to build a culture necessary for organizational excellence. For Tulare County district leaders who were unable to attend Dr. Greco's first virtual session, [a recording is available here](#).



Tulare County district leaders are invited to register for Dr. Greco's final sessions of the 2020-21 Learning and Leadership Forum planned for [January 29](#) and [March 12](#) (click on each date to register). Materials shared by Dr. Greco during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Learning and Leadership Forums are available at tinyurl.com/TCOELLE.

Pat Greco is a senior director with Studer Education, a national consulting organization. As the former superintendent of Menomonee Falls (Wisconsin) Schools, Dr. Greco successfully used improvement science to accelerate system, school, and student learning. Under her leadership, the district adopted a problem-solving mindset which yielded an impressive array of impacts, including transforming Menomonee Falls High School from a federal designation of "in need of improvement" in 2011 to a *U.S. News & World Report* "top high school in the nation."

For additional information, contact Martin Frolli at martinf@tcoe.org.

Distance Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
- [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
- [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)

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

Contributors: Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Lorena White, Katherine Goyette, Paula Terrill, Tammy McKean, and Michelle Trevino.

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