

Register today for Equity Conference scheduled for January 21



TCOE's second annual Equity Conference is scheduled for tomorrow, January 21. Educators, community members, and parents are encouraged to register by 5:00 p.m. today to attend the virtual conference.

The Equity Conference will feature two prominent keynote speakers, Dr. Jamila Lyiscott and Father Greg Boyle. Opening the conference is Jamila Lyiscott, Ph.D., a community-engaged scholar, nationally renowned speaker, and spoken word artist. She serves as an assistant professor of Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a senior research fellow of Teachers College, Columbia University's Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME). Across these spaces, Dr. Lyiscott's work focuses on racial justice, community engagement, and youth activism in education through the lens of what she has termed, "Vision-Driven Justice."



Father Greg Boyle will close the conference. He is a Los Angeles native and Jesuit priest. From 1986 to 1992, Father Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights, then the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles with the highest concentration of gang activity in the city. Father Boyle witnessed the devastating impact of gang violence on his community during the so-called "decade of death" which began in the late 1980s and peaked at 1,000 gang-related killings in 1992. Father Boyle is the author of the 2010 *New York Times*-bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. His latest book, *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, was published in 2017.

Throughout the day, participants will have the opportunity to attend three breakout sessions, each offering up to nine presentation options. The sessions have been designed to engage participants in deeper conversations around equity challenges impeding student success and to encourage them to brainstorm practical solutions that empower all members of the educational community. Representatives from institutions addressing their own equity challenges will share their strategies, obstacles, and outcomes. The presentations look at addressing equity for all students, including those with mental health and other special needs, foster youth, English learners, and LGBTQ+ students. Additionally, presentations will focus on equity in all curricular areas. Also among the presentations are a student panel and a school site practitioner's panel focusing on issues of equity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recordings of the sessions and panel discussions will also be available for participants to access after the conference.

Registration

Educators, community members, and parents are encouraged to visit <u>tcoe.org/EquityConference</u> for more information. The fee to attend for Tulare County residents is \$15 per person; those outside Tulare County may attend for \$25 per person.

Students invited to submit their stories to the annual Young Authors' Faire



Teachers are invited to register their students who intend to participate in the annual Young Authors' Faire. The Faire is open to students in grades K-8 who write and illustrate original digital books. The deadline to register to participate is February 22 and all books must be submitted by March 22. The books will displayed virtually on a special public webpage April 1-30.

As part of the Young Authors' Faire, student authors will be invited to take part in a virtual visit with awarding-winning children's book illustrator Rafael Lopez on April 22.

For more information on the registration process, visit <u>tcoe.org/YoungAuthorsFaire</u> or contact Juliana Davidian at juliana.davidian@tcoe.org.

Young filmmakers invited to submit their work to annual Slick Rock Student Film Festival



Video entries for the 2021 Slick Rock Student Film Festival are due March 12. Middle and high school students living in Tulare, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, or Merced counties may enter videos in a total of 16 categories. From these entries, judges will select a "Best of Show" winner for both middle and high school categories.

Visit <u>tcoe.org/SlickRock</u> for information on film categories, deadlines, and the awards ceremony, which will be held virtually again this year in a half-hour special on partner station, ABC30, in May.

Distance Learning Resources

- <u>Arts All Around Us</u>
- <u>TCOE Learning at Home</u>
- <u>TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library</u>

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