

Charlene Stringham looks forward to retirement, enjoying time with family

Charlene Stringham, assistant superintendent of District Support Services within the Instructional Services Division, is retiring later this week. The veteran administrator joined the Tulare County Office of Education in 2008 as an instructional consultant at Educational Resource Services (ERS), having served in the Tulare City School District for 25 years. In 2012, she became the program's administrator. In 2014, she was promoted to assistant superintendent of Instructional Services.



"Fortunately for the administrators and teachers in Tulare and surrounding counties, Charlene's tenure with TCOE coincided with the California Department of Education's move to implement the Common Core State Standards," said Tim Hire. "Her broad vision for supports to implement the standards were admired and utilized by educators throughout the state and beyond."

Under Charlene's leadership at ERS, the program created a system for Common Core implementation and support. The system included a new website with resources and tools that were developed or vetted, and indexed and catalogued into a searchable database. The resources were freely shared with educators who could adopt them to

align with their local initiatives. Charlene also oversaw the expansion of ERS consulting services to districts and aligned the program's numerous student events to address the new standards. As evidence of the system's success, in 2014 the California School Boards Association recognized the ERS Common Core System of Implementation and Support with its prestigious Golden Bell Award.

In her role as assistant superintendent of Instructional Services, Charlene worked to further the sharing of best practices through collaboration between programs and among the other divisions. She envisioned the expansion of the division's Management Council to include representatives from other divisions, including Special Services, Human Resources, and Business Services. She also envisioned the Learning & Leadership Forum – an annual speaker series designed for curriculum and instruction leaders from districts throughout Tulare County.

In 2016, Charlene's work in assisting educators to implement the California State Standards caught the attention of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The result was a multi-year grant in partnership with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Stanford University to improve elementary math instruction in Tulare County. This fall, the Gates Foundation awarded TCOE a second grant of \$6.1 million to create a network of high schools committed to increasing the number of African American, Latinx, and socially-economically disadvantaged students accepted into postsecondary institutions.

In 2018, Charlene was selected as the Outstanding Instructional Leader for the California ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development). Annually, the award recognizes individuals who influence and advocate for professional growth and instructional leadership. Charlene was selected for the award having served as the 2017 chair of the Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) for the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association. Under her leadership, CISC developed a facilitation guide entitled "Differentiated Assistance Protocols for LEAs." The award was also given in recognition of her work in developing resources and trainings to support educators across the state in implementing the California State Standards.

Her additional accomplishments include the development of TCOE's annual Equity Conference, launched in 2020, and leading a team that won a statewide contract to serve as Lead Educational Agency (LEA) for a regional consortium of counties under the California Statewide System of Support.

"I am especially proud of the collective efforts in which I played a role during my tenure at Tulare County Office of Education," Charlene said in a message to staff members. "While the impact of our work is never fully realized, I leave my beloved TCOE with both a sense of accomplishment and excitement for the future of the organization as you continue to innovate and serve in an ever-changing context." In retirement, Charlene plans to focus on her grandchildren, traveling, reading, and other interests.

Photo above:

~ Charlene Stringham is looking forward to retirement and having time to spend with her grandchildren, read, and travel. She is pictured with her husband Ward and their three grandchildren. The couple have four children and are expecting a fourth grandchild this year.

Students, grades 4-12, invited to enter projects in National History Day – Tulare County event



National History Day – Tulare County (NHD) will be held virtually this year on February 19. Students in grades 4-12 are invited to submit their projects for the competition by Monday, January 25. Students in grades 4 and 5 can create group or individual 2D displays. Students in the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and the Senior Division (grades 9-12) may submit a group or individual performance, group or individual exhibit, group or individual documentary, group or individual historical website design, or a historical paper.

The theme of NHD 2021 is “Communication in History.” The theme was chosen to encourage students to delve deeply into local, state, national, or international historical content to develop perspective and understanding on a topic of their choice as it relates to the national theme. For information on the entry process prior to the January 25 deadline, please contact Paula Terrill at paula.terrill@tcoe.org.

Projects entered in the competition will be presented and judged on the morning of February 19. Following the student presentations, the event will feature a special keynote address by Visalia native Dr. Christopher Sheklian, who will speak on Armenia history and human rights. Dr. Sheklian is a scholar with research interests in Armenian history and theology, the anthropology of religion and secularism, and political philosophy. Dr. Sheklian currently works as a postdoctoral researcher as part of the “Rewriting Global Orthodoxy” Project at Radboud University in Nijmegen, in the Netherlands. He is also a member of a working group on “Orthodox Christianity and Human Rights,” organized by the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University.

Following Dr. Sheklian’s message, select projects chosen by the judges will be shown during the event’s “Best of Show” presentation. For more information on NHD – Tulare County, visit tcoe.org/HistoryDay.

TCOE and district leaders provide support to others through Rural Schools Coaching Initiative



This month, TCOE's Tim Hire and Dr. Fernie Marroquin, and veteran school district superintendents Terri Rufert, Sherry Martin, Chris Meyer, Steve Tsuboi, and Yolanda Valdez will begin serving as coaches to support small cohorts of administrators in Tulare County rural districts. The administrator coaches are providing monthly support as part of a three-year program known as the Rural Schools Coaching Initiative, funded by a 21st Century California School Leadership Academy (21 CSLA) grant. Regionally, the 21 CSLA was provided to the Madera County Superintendent of Schools in partnership with U.C. Berkeley's Principal Leadership Institute.

The coaches will work with select teacher leaders, emerging administrators, and administrators facing new challenges utilizing a continuous improvement model designed to develop leaders with a vision for more equitable outcomes for all student groups.

For more information on the Rural Schools Coaching Initiative, contact John Davis in the Leadership Support Services department at john.davis@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, Brook Killingsworth, Paula Terrill, and John Davis.

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