

## TCOE employees honored for over 2,400 years of service



This evening, the Human Resources Division will host its annual Longevity Awards dinner for employees who are celebrating service milestones at the Tulare County Office of Education. This year, Human Resources will honor 136 staff members who marked their 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 45 years of service to the organization and the children of Tulare County. Human Resources Director John Rodriguez reports that the staff members dedicated a combined 2,420 years of service.

"We're looking forward to celebrating in person this year the careers of TCOE employees who have made an impact on thousands of Tulare County students in the school districts we support," said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "While this is a time to honor those who have service anniversaries, it's also a time to thank every employee who has given so much more these past two years – stepping up to take on additional work when others are out, preserving when additional precautions and regulations are put into place, and doing their jobs in different ways. Thank you!"

Photos from tonight's event will be posted on TCOE's social media. Readers are invited to share and express their appreciation for the honorees' service.

### 2021 TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION LONGEVITY AWARDS HONOREES

#### 45 Year Honoree

Robin Artin, Special Services – Mild to Moderate Programs

**35 Year Honorees** Jessie Avila, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Jovita Carranza, Early Childhood Education Program  
Robin Souza, Special Services – AcCEL Program

**30 Year Honorees**

Lori Allan, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Tisha Alvarez, Early Childhood Education Program  
Helen Lewis, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Margarita Quintana, School Health Program  
Steve Tellez, Services for Education & Employment

**25 Year Honorees**

Pauline Archuleta, Court & Community Schools  
Esperanza “Hope” Flores, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Rosa Flores, Early Childhood Education Program  
Jennifer Giannetto, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Gilbert Hernandez, Information Systems  
Matthew Lee, Court & Community Schools  
Lydia Lopez, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Debbie Michaelian, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
San Juanita Ornelas, Early Childhood Education Program  
Cristina Parker, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Laura Rivas, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
Melinda Stephens, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Carmen Tapia, Early Childhood Education Program  
Sandy Urias, Migrant Education Program  
Pa Vang, Early Childhood Education Program  
Melissa Velasquez, Early Childhood Education Program  
Rosalie Velazco, Early Childhood Education Program

**20 Year Honorees**

Kathleen Aguinaga, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Lydia Alvizo, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Vincenza Arreola, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Jody Arriaga, Internal Business Services  
Sylvia Avila, Early Childhood Education Program  
Wendy Bernal, Special Services – Intervention Resource Classrooms  
Ana Borba, School Health Program  
Patricia Butler, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Julia Castro Zarate, Early Childhood Education Program  
Tracy Clark, Internal Business Services  
Linda Corral, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Lena Cranston, Early Childhood Education Program  
Veronica DeAnda, Migrant Education Program  
Erika Delgado, Internal Business Services  
Suehey Florez, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
Donna Glassman-Sommer, California Center on Teaching Careers  
Ninfa Guerrero, Early Childhood Education Program  
Rosanna Guzman, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
Lori Harding, Special Services – Bright Future Program  
Rose Ann Hernandez, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Doris Jayroe, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Rudy Jimenez, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Maria Juarez, Migrant Education Program  
Mumtaz Lakhani, Early Childhood Education Program  
Elza Lee, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Frances Madrigal, Early Childhood Education Program  
Stacey Martin, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Alberto Martinez-Gutierrez, Early Childhood Education Program  
Letty Mendez, Early Childhood Education Program

Martha Mendiola, Early Childhood Education Program  
Maria Mendoza, Early Childhood Education Program  
Brenda Moreno, Internal Business Services  
Linda Peña, Internal Business Services  
Robby Ridenour, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Blanca Robles, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Elisabeth Rodriguez, Special Services – Mild to Moderate Programs  
Justina Sanchez, Early Childhood Education Program  
Amy Schaap, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Catherine Spring, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Leticia Treviño, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Ofelia Treviño-Toste, External Business Services  
Christina Valdes, Internal Business Services  
Rosa Villegas, Early Childhood Education Program  
Rolinda Williams, Early Childhood Education Program  
Courtney Wittman, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Steven Woods, Educational Resource Services  
Nicole Zweifel, Theatre Company

### **15 Year Honorees**

Elizabeth Aguilera, Early Childhood Education Program  
Heather Albanez, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Laura Bañuelos, Early Childhood Education Program  
Cynthia Bush, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Georgina Carreno, Early Childhood Education Program  
Mary Enevoldsen, External Business Services  
Marta Espinoza, Early Childhood Education Program  
Ernestina Fernandez, Early Childhood Education Program  
Lucila Fernandez, Early Childhood Education Program  
Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa, Theatre Company  
Maria Guerrero, Early Childhood Education Program  
Steven Leos, Special Services - Related Services Program  
Maryellen Macias, Early Childhood Education Program  
Pamela Malloy, Special Services – Related Services Program  
Cindy Melchor, Early Childhood Education Program  
Marisa Rickert, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
Jessikah Saechao, External Business Services  
Christina Sartuche, Educational Resource Services  
Dianne Shew, SCICON  
James Smith, Special Services – Alternative Achievement Program  
Ermelinda Soto, Early Childhood Education Program  
Francia Tapia, New Teacher & Leadership Development  
Paula Terrill, Educational Resource Services  
Kathryn Thompson, New Teacher & Leadership Development  
Antonia Torres Ramos, Early Childhood Education Program  
Mae Vang, Early Childhood Education Program  
Maria Yanes, Special Services – AcCEL Program

### **10 Year Honorees**

Donna Agler, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Josrito Ancheta, Behavioral Health Services  
Melissa Avina, Special Services – Psychological Services  
Jennifer Barela, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Deanne Barton, Special Services – Behavioral Health Services  
Timothy Budz, Educational Resource Services  
Leann Chapman, SCICON  
Yolanda Coa, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
Elizabeth Corona, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
Celeste Crumm, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
Rebeca Deleon, Services for Education & Employment  
Veronica Devora, Migrant Education Program  
Kendra Espinoza, Special Services – AcCEL Program

Ramon Garcia, Human Resources  
 Elena Giannandrea, Special Services – Mild to Moderate Programs  
 Misael Gomez, Special Services – Behavioral Health Services  
 Janet Gonzalez Haro, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
 Melissa Greeson, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
 Jacqualine Gridiron, Special Services – Intervention Resource Classrooms  
 Shelby Hamby, Special Services – Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program  
 Sarah Hamilton, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
 Yessica Hernandez, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
 Christina Joaquin, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
 Maricela Ledezma, Special Services – AcCEL Program  
 Jeff Lemos, Maintenance & Operations  
 April Martinez, Early Childhood Education Program  
 Ricardo Mayorga Jr., Early Childhood Education Program  
 Tammy McKean, Special Services  
 Susana Mendoza, Early Childhood Education Program  
 Brooke Parbst, Special Services – Foster Youth Services  
 Michelle Quintana, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
 Maria Reyes, Early Childhood Education Program  
 Sylvia Rodriguez, Special Services – Psychological Services  
 Stephanie Stricklin, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
 Rocio Torres Amezcua, Special Services – Bright Start Program  
 Michelle Van Till, Special Services – AcCEL Program

## Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative holds triennial Impact Celebration event



Last month, the College and Career program convened a meeting of the Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative (TKCCC) to share data and celebrate the contributions of K12, post-secondary and workforce partners. TKCCC meets every three years for its Impact Celebration to report on progress made in preparing Tulare and Kings county students for college and career, and to honor the men and women in education and industry who made a difference in advancing the mission of the organization.

Joy Soares, director of TCOE's College and Career program, reports that in the past six years, the state-recognized TKCCC network has attracted over \$52 million dollars in grants and other funds for college and career readiness

work. It was also reported that – prior to the pandemic –the amount of in-kind donations of time provided by industry partners had grown to \$5.4 million. The amount represents the value of employer’s time in providing job shadows, guest speaking, and internships to students. “Six years ago, we began with several supportive partners to build a sustainable system of support,” Soares said. “When we tracked the value of the contributions in the first year, it was under \$1 million. Prior to the pandemic in the 2018-19 school year, we had risen to \$5.4 million and I’m pleased to say that we’re steadily climbing back to that number.”

Conference attendees also learned that, despite the pandemic, the TKCCC region high schools grew their Early College Credit offerings from 146 courses in 2019-20 to over 200 courses during the 2020-21 school year. The courses were created with the region’s community colleges, including College of the Sequoias, Fresno City College, Reedley College, Porterville College, and West Hills College. Presenters also showed attendees the positive trend in students completing career pathway programs in the two-county area. In four years, the number of students who finished pathway programs in the 21 partner high schools rose by 1,000.

Sharon Twitty, executive director of the statewide ARCHES (Alliance for Regional Collaboration to Heighten Educational Success), also spoke to the group, saying, “As I support this type of collaborative work across the state, I have found that the TKCCC structures and practices are to be held up across the state as a best example of college and career systems work. ARCHES honors this partnership along with the student outcomes TKCCC strives to produce.” ARCHES is a statewide association of regional collaboratives working to eliminate opportunity gaps and improve college and career readiness for California students.

TKCCC Impact Celebration was also convened to recognize numerous individuals for their contribution to the organization’s efforts to prepare students for college and career. The **Teachers of Impact** honored at the event included:

Silvia Hermosillo  
Burton School District

Belinda Duran  
Corcoran Unified School District

Virgilio Ang  
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Ramon Sanchez  
Dinuba Unified School District

Dan Crookham  
Exeter Unified School District

Daniel Benitez  
Farmersville Unified School District

Kim Dodd and Jason Hopper  
Hanford Joint Union High School District

Shane Souza  
Lemoore Union High School District

Perla Lara  
Lindsay Unified School District

Jennifer O'Donohoe  
Tulare Joint Union High School District

Ken Cox, Kim Mirwald, and Aimee Veldhuizen  
Visalia Unified School District

Don Thornburg  
Woodlake Unified School District

The honored **Leaders of Impact**, who serve on the TKCCC Steering Council, included:

Dr. Jerry Buckley, President  
Reedley College

Dr. Kristin Clark, President  
West Hills College

Dr. Victor Rosa, Superintendent  
Hanford Joint Union High School District

Yolanda Valdez, Superintendent  
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

The **Tulare Kings Workforce Leaders of Impact** recognized were:

Lance Lippincott  
Kings County Job Training Office

Adam Peck  
Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County

“There are four other individuals who were foundational in the inception of the organization beginning as the Tulare Kings Linked Learning Consortium,” Soares said. “Jennie Bautista, Kris Costa, Thad Russell, and Randy Wallace have been incredibly impactful as we moved from a grant-funded consortium to a partnership. Thank you!”

For more information about the Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative, contact Joy Soares at [joy.soares@tcoe.org](mailto:joy.soares@tcoe.org).

*Photo above:*

*~ Data presented at the Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative shows growth in program participation, course offerings, and industry support.*

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## Visalia students recognized for Pursuing Victory with Honor



In partnership with the Visalia Kiwanis, TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! Program celebrated this fall's Pursuing Victory With Honor award winners Tuesday at a lunch provided by Dickey's Barbecue Pit. The Visalia Kiwanis recognizes student-athletes, nominated by their coaches, each season for their sportsmanship.

At the lunch, students were presented with a certificate, lawn sign that read "An Athlete of Character Lives Here," and gift bags from the Visalia Kiwanis and guest speaker Tony Casares.

Below is a list of the fall Pursuing Victory With Honor award winners along with a quote from their coaches.

### **Central Valley Christian**

Jacob Alzagatiti, senior – boys cross country (not pictured): "He has grown into an outstanding leader on the team who is not only relentlessly striving to better himself, but also constantly providing encouragement and support to everyone else on the team."

McKenna Phillips, senior – girls tennis: "McKenna is a leader. And she best leads by example. She is positive, encouraging, determined, and confident. And she portrays all of these qualities with an overwhelming sense of humility."

### El Diamante High School

Emmalie Cooper, senior – girls golf: “Emmalie doesn’t only focus on improving her skills, but she goes out of her way to make sure everyone on the team is accepted and valued.”

Caroline Johnson, junior – girls tennis: “Caroline Johnson is trustworthy, honest, and courageous...Caroline always demonstrates sportsmanship and integrity on the tennis court.”





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## ***Around the County***

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### **Mission Oak wins Central Section title**



Mission Oak High School volleyball defeated Reedley to win the CIF Central Section Division V Championship Saturday at West Hills College Lemoore. Seeded fifth, Mission Oak, located in Tulare, upset third-seeded Reedley 3-0 with set wins of 25-12, 25-22, and 25-18.

Senior outside hitter Sariah Serrano led Mission Oak with 14 kills, 12 digs, and two aces. Senior outside hitter and defensive specialist, Margaret Arambula, had 12 kills and 14 digs. Freshman libero Aurora Sotelo had 18 digs and three aces. Senior setter Rilynn Fien had 20 assists while sophomore setter Rebekah Beasley had seven.

This was Mission Oak's first Valley championship title since 2017 when the team won the Division III title.

Mission Oak's season ended on Tuesday with a 3-0 loss to top-seeded Santa Clarita Christian in the first round of the CIF Southern California Regional Championship tournament. The Hawks were seeded 16th and finished the season with a record of 15-21.

*Photo above:*

*~ The Mission Oak High School volleyball team poses for pictures after winning the CIF Central Section Division V Championship Saturday at West Hills College Lemoore. Photo courtesy of the CIF Central Section Facebook.*

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*Around the County* is a regular feature of TCOE's *News Gallery Week*. To be considered for this section, Tulare County districts are encouraged to share major student, school, and district achievements and high-resolution photography with Rob Herman, communications director, at [robh@tcoe.org](mailto:robh@tcoe.org).

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## Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
  - [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
  - [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)
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To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit [tcoe.org/GetTheGallery](http://tcoe.org/GetTheGallery), or contact Jennifer Fisher at [jenniferf@tcoe.org](mailto:jenniferf@tcoe.org) or (559) 733-6172.