

news galleryweek

December 15, 2021

Annual Expanding Your Horizons event held virtually



Over 250 young women participated in a virtual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) on Saturday. The popular STEM-based conference for young women in grades 4-10 provided interaction and hands-on activities delivered by professionals working in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers. Participants engaged in the conference at home or gathered at school with their classmates.

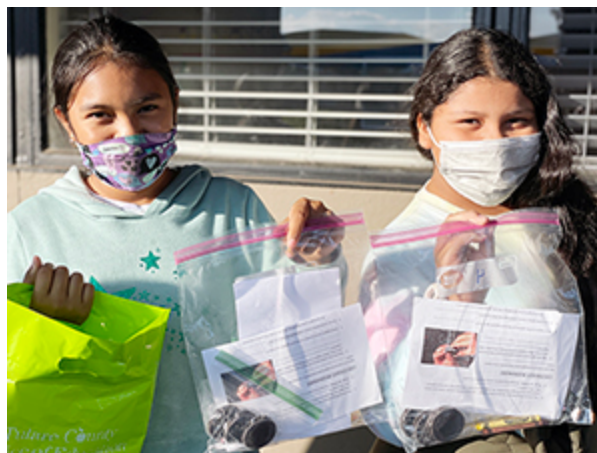
Prior to the conference, event organizers from Educational Resource Services delivered activity kits to schools with student participants. Event coordinator Paula Terrill reports that 30 presenters used apps or elements from the kits to engage the young women in numerous hands-on activities – which included a lessons on plate tectonics, designing a rollercoaster, and building a catapult.

For more information about EYH, visit tcoe.org/eyh or contact Paula Terrill at paula.terrill@tcoe.org.

Photos above:

~ Many young women who participated in the annual *Expanding Your Horizons* gathered at their schools to engage in hands-on STEM activities conducted by 30 virtual presenters.

~ To prepare students for the virtual event, organizers delivered activity kits to participating schools.



Annual CAC calendar focuses on students with special needs persevering during pandemic

Last week, Special Services debuted its annual Community Advisory Committee (CAC) calendar to distribute to schools, community organizations, and clinics. For over 30 years, the "Meeting Challenges" calendar has highlighted the needs and abilities of special education students in Tulare County.

This year's calendar is titled "A JOURNEY TO SUCCESS for 2022" and details the perseverance of students as they overcame the challenges of distance learning to have success in the classroom. It also highlights the numerous avenues of support students utilized, including teachers, service providers, and students' families. "Parents and teachers depended on a much closer connection to help students persevere, stay engaged, remain present, and be connected and motivated. School looked different during the pandemic, but despite the challenges to their education, students were still learning with the creative teaching," the calendar reads.

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 30 years.

GIANNA LOZANO
Bright Start Program,
Tulare County Office of Education

Starting a new program, meeting new teachers and learning new skills during the pandemic was a new way of learning for some.

Gianna started the Bright Start program during the pandemic and had only known remote services until June 2021. The Bright Start teacher and other service providers communicated with Gianna through video visits. Returning to in-person learning, Gianna did not recognize her teacher at their first in-person home visit. When Gianna started Early Intervention services during the pandemic she was not able to walk. But, by the time services started in-person during the summer of June 2021, she was walking! She has also started using her right hand and arm more often. Gianna adjusted to in-person home visits and works great with her teacher. Overall, Gianna has made tremendous gains and is doing great!

NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5

Tulare County students featured in latest ABC30 *Children First* special, *All About the Arts*



ABC30 aired the latest special in its *Children First* series on Sunday, December 12. Entitled *All About the Arts*, the half-hour program features stories about Central Valley students engaging in the arts – theatre, dance, music, video production, and painting and sculpture.

Featured in the special was a story about TCOE's Theatre Company with interviews of director Bethany Rader and several cast members of the recent production of *Disney's Lion King Jr.* Kate Stover, TCOE's curriculum specialist for the arts, was also interviewed on the academic and social/emotional benefits of arts education.

One of the final segments in the program was an interview with students from El Diamante High School about their award-winning film, *Incursion*. The team of Noah Lillywhite, Samuel Zurek, and Kai Willey recently won a student Emmy Award for their short film entered in the Sixth Annual National Student Production Awards. Lillywhite, Zurek, and Willey were the winners of the Best of Show award for high school films in the 2021 Slick Rock Student Film Festival, coordinated annually by the Tulare County Office of Education.

To see *All About the Arts*, visit <https://abc30.com/all-about-the-arts-schools-education-central-california/11316959/>, or tune in to ABC30 Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Photo above:

~ Caitlin Plumlee of Harmony Magnet Academy was interviewed for ABC30's latest *Children First* special entitled *All About the Arts*. Caitlin played Pumbaa in the Theatre Company's fall production of *Disney's Lion King Jr.*

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, or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.