

National History Day held virtually, 22 projects selected to advance to state competition



In their National History Day senior group documentary, Addison Reardon, Hannah Wegley, and Hollen Wegley of University Preparatory High School (UPHS) explored how vocal music was encoded with messages to guide slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad during the early- to mid-19th century. For their work on the documentary, the students were selected as finalists and received “Best of Event” honors at the annual competition held virtually last Friday.

Students from seven Tulare County schools entered 41 projects in National History Day – Tulare County, exploring the national theme, *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*. Students worked in groups or individually to produce documentaries, papers, exhibits, and websites investigating how communication has affected history. The projects included a broad range of history and human endeavor, including medicine, technology, human rights, languages, and conflict.

Twenty-two projects were selected as finalists, making them eligible to compete in the virtual National History Day – California competition in May. For a complete list of finalists and alternates, click on the Competition Results link at tcoe.org/HistoryDay.

Photo above:

~ The senior group documentary, Slave Songs: A Guide to Freedom, was one of 22 projects selected as finalists in the National History Day – Tulare County competition held last week. The finalists are eligible to compete in the National History Day – California virtual event in May.

TCOE coordinates with public health department and 17 districts to administer vaccines



On Friday and Saturday, 675 educators from 17 Tulare County school districts received the first of their two-part COVID-19 vaccines thanks to a partnership with the Tulare County Public Health Department. County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire coordinated with superintendents of the 17 districts to prioritize the vaccinations for district educators with direct student contact.

Porterville Unified hosted the event at Monache High School on Friday for 13 south county districts. On Saturday, Dinuba Unified hosted the vaccination clinic for four north county districts at Washington Intermediate School. In addition to staff from the public health department, TCOE managers and school nurses supported the events.



"I greatly appreciate the partnership with the public health department in making this supply of vaccinations available to educators," said Mr. Hire. "I also appreciate that the districts selected to participate in this round of vaccinations moved so quickly to take advantage of the supplies." Mr. Hire reports that TCOE will continue to work with the public health department to create vaccination clinics for districts in other areas of the county as supplies become available.

Participating districts included Alta Vista School, Burton School District, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District, Dinuba Unified School District, Ducor Union School, Hope School, Kings River Union School, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School, Pleasant View School, Porterville Unified School District, Richgrove School, Saucelito School, Springville Union School, Strathmore Union School District, Sunnyside Union School, Terra Bella Union School District, and Woodville Union School.

Photos above:

~ Working in partnership with the Tulare County Public Health Department, TCOE helped to coordinate two COVID-19 vaccination clinics attended by 675 educators from 17 Tulare County school districts.

Foster Youth Services to hold annual summit next month

TCOE Foster and Homeless Youth Services Program will be hosting its annual Education Summit virtually on March 17. Social workers and educators in all school settings are invited to attend the half-day event, which will include sessions on self-care for educators during the pandemic and a cost of poverty experience. Dr. Deshunna M. Ricks will be the featured speaker. Dr. Ricks is an adjunct Instructor in the School of Education and School of Humanities, Religion, and Social Science at Fresno Pacific University. A former foster youth born and raised in West Fresno, Dr. Ricks is an author and founder of I Have Value, LLC and the Value Academy – a 16-week self-development program for teens. To register for this free event, visit bit.ly/3acnmxV.

For more information, contact Beth Wilshire, Foster Youth Services coordinator, at bethw@tcoe.org or call (559) 730-2910, ext. 5131.

Photo above:

~ Dr. Deshunna M. Ricks will be the keynote speaker at the annual Foster and Homeless Youth Virtual Education Summit. Dr. Ricks is a former foster youth, author, and adjunct professor at Fresno Pacific University.



Distance Learning Resources

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 - [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
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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.