

# news galleryweek

July 28, 2021

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## Amanda Driver named lead teacher at Circle J-Norris Ranch



Porterville environmental sciences teacher Amanda Driver has been named lead teacher at Circle J-Norris Ranch, the field study site of the SCICON program. Driver succeeds Nancy Bruce who served in the position since May 2000 and retired last month.

Driver joins the SCICON staff having served as lead teacher for Porterville Unified's Environmental Science Academy, located at Monache High School. She had been a teacher at the school for 16 years, working in the Environmental Science Academy since its creation 10 years ago. "Amanda and her students have been actively engaged in the Circle J program, supporting their classroom learning with hands-on environmental studies at the ranch," said Dianne Shew, SCICON administrator. "We are so fortunate to have her join us, bringing first-hand knowledge of Circle J's operations and a great enthusiasm for the mission of the program."

Over the years, Driver's students were involved in numerous Circle J programs and student events, including the ongoing oak restoration project, Field Science Weekends, and astronomy nights. Several of her students completed their senior projects using research conducted at Circle J.

Driver will continue the work of the program to create unique environmental lessons for all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary students in Tulare County. Circle J offers students and their teachers opportunities for experiential learning and ongoing research. Circle J is also home to the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station, which offers Tulare County students insight into the work of UC researchers.

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## Early Childhood Education distributes educational materials and other supplies to providers

Earlier this month, Tulare County early learning care programs received a variety of educational resources, child and adult face masks, and emergency childcare backpacks. The resources were organized into a drive-thru giveaway for 200 Tulare County early care providers.

Recipients of the supplies benefitted from educational resources that included a variety of math, literacy, and STEM materials. The emergency backpacks and educational resources were funded in part by Tulare County Resource and Referral and Tulare County Early Stars Program. The PPE supplies were sponsored by the California Department of Social Services.

For information on future early learning care supply giveaways, contact Anthony Carrillo at [anthony.carrillo@cc.tcoe.org](mailto:anthony.carrillo@cc.tcoe.org).



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## Around the County

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### Tulare County welcomes new superintendents



Four Tulare County school districts welcomed new superintendents for the 2021-22 school year after the previous administrators retired. Former Burton School District principal **Lily Shimer** is now the superintendent for Strathmore Union School District. Three Rivers Union School District is now being led by former Farmersville Unified School District principal **Emily Rodriguez, Ed.D.** At Tulare Joint Union High School District, **Lucy Van Scyoc, Ed.D.** was

promoted from assistant superintendent of Curriculum, Technology, and Assessment to superintendent. **Brandon Chiapa** was also promoted from learning director to superintendent at Alta Vista School District. The previous superintendents for the schools were **Shelly Long, Ed.D.** (Strathmore), **Sue Sherwood** (Three Rivers), **Rob Hudson, Ed.D.** (Alta Vista), and **Tony Rodriguez** (Tulare).

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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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## Distance Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
  - [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
  - [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)
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