

# news galleryweek

July 7, 2021

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## Christina Rodriguez named program manager for School Health Programs

This month, veteran nurse practitioner Christina Rodriguez assumed duties as program manager for TCOE's School Health Programs. Rodriguez succeeds Nan Arnold, who retired in June.

Rodriguez has served as a Credentialed School Nurse with the program for nearly 11 years, managing school health programs in various single school districts throughout Tulare County, including Palo Verde, Tipton, Oak Valley, Rockford, and Ducor. Additionally, she served the students at the Visalia-based Blue Oak Academy and Sycamore Valley Academy charter schools. Rodriguez has 27 years of direct care, nursing education, and leadership experience in a variety of healthcare and academic settings. Prior to joining TCOE, she provided nursing care to a variety of patient populations, including pediatrics, geriatrics, surgical patients, and patients with development disabilities and mental illnesses. She was also a nurse instructor at Porterville Developmental Center, RN associate professor at Porterville College, and clinical coordinator of the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at Sierra View District Hospital. Rodriguez holds a master's degree in the Science of Nursing.

"My goals for the program center on continuing to provide quality health support and nursing services for our TCOE staff, Tulare County school districts, students, and the community," Rodriguez said. "This year, I hope to resume some in-person school nurse workshops and increase the number of CPR classes available to our TCOE staff and school districts."

Rodriguez, who grew up in Tulare County, reports that she enjoys supporting her two younger children with their extracurricular activities, camping, sewing, remodeling and enjoying her two grandchildren.



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## State leaders come together for second symposium on educator recruitment and retention



Held last month, the 2021 California Educator Recruitment & Retention Symposium attracted over 200 participants virtually. Attendees were able to hear from state leaders discussing the statewide teacher shortage and its solutions. Among the presenters was State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurman, who discussed the challenges in addressing the teacher shortage and how the pandemic has amplified them.

This year's symposium was a continuation of a program conceived by the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (SLOCOE) in 2017. The program developed from a Cal-Ed grant SLOCOE received through TCOE's California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center) combined with research that Dr. James Brescia, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools, had completed for the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) on teacher recruitment best practices. The first symposium on educator recruitment and retention was held in November 2019 in Sacramento, cohosted by SLOCOE and the Center.

"The conference was so successful, we decided to replicate the event the following year," said Donna Glassman-Sommer, Center executive director. "While the pandemic prohibited another face-to-face event, we discussed the value of virtual recruiting with Dr. Brescia and decided to host a culminating event."

Tara Kini, chief of staff and director of state policy with The Learning Policy Institute, joined Mr. Thurmond and State Senator John Laird as the keynote presenter. Following the keynote, attendees were able to attend two breakout panel discussions on recruitment for diversity and recruitment for schools in urban and rural areas. To conclude the conference, a closing panel discussion featured the following educator recruitment/retention experts:

- Louis Freedberg, Executive Director Emeritus, EdSource
- Donna Glassman-Sommer, Executive Director, California Center on Teaching Careers
- Hana Ma, Senior Policy Analyst, EdTrust-West
- Rigel Massaro, Deputy Legal Counsel, State Board of Education

- Cara Mendoza, Administrator, California Commission on Teaching
- Jack O'Connell, Partner, Capitol Advisors Group
- Wesley Smith, Executive Director, ACSA

Copies of the keynote presentation and the closing panel are now available on TCOE's YouTube channel at [youtu.be/gpdYEnyaqkw](https://youtu.be/gpdYEnyaqkw) and [youtu.be/M2Mwvrz36ow](https://youtu.be/M2Mwvrz36ow), respectively.

For more information on the Center, visit [californiateach.org](https://californiateach.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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