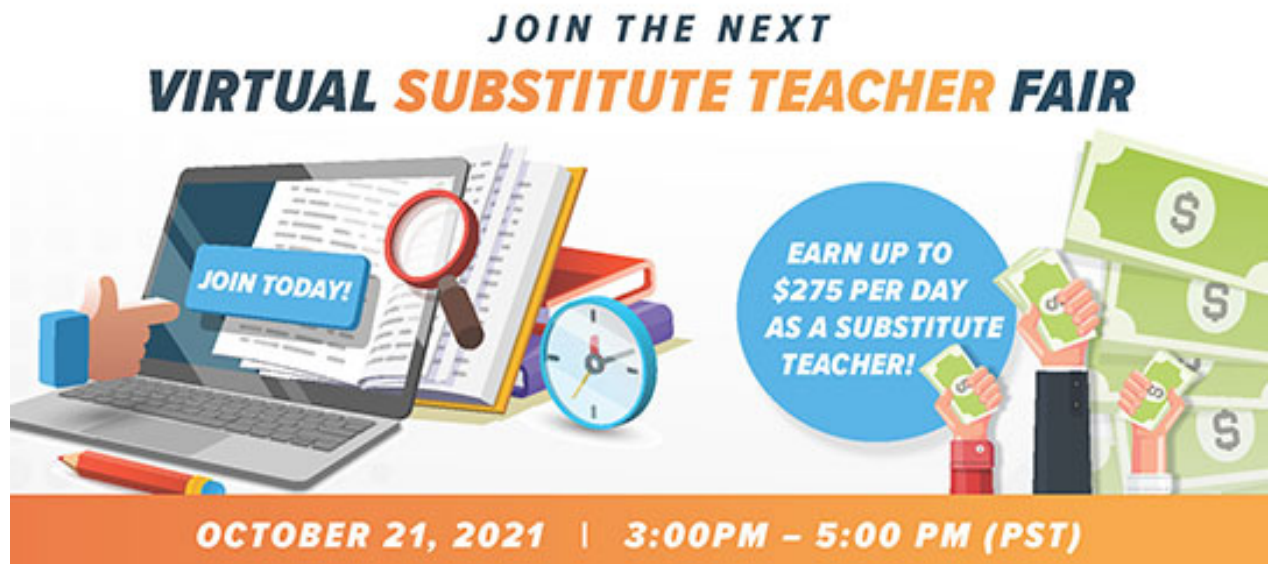


news galleryweek

September 22, 2021

California Center on Teaching Careers to hold virtual substitute fair October 21

**JOIN THE NEXT
VIRTUAL SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FAIR**



OCTOBER 21, 2021 | 3:00PM - 5:00 PM (PST)

As the pandemic continues to affect communities throughout the state, California districts are challenged to fill classrooms when teachers must leave to attend trainings or recover from COVID at home. In most counties, districts find they are competing in the same limited pool of substitute teachers for their classrooms. Locally, several administrators from other Tulare County Office of Education departments have pitched in to substitute, alleviating teacher shortages in TCOE's special day classes.

The pandemic has also compounded California's long-running teacher shortage. Donna Glassman-Sommer, executive director for the California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center), reports that districts are hiring quality substitute teachers full time, decreasing the numbers available to other districts. At the same time, according to a December 28, 2020 article in *EdSource*, there has been a steep decline in applications for substitute teaching credentials since January 2020.

To address the issue, the Center has created a virtual substitute fair for October 21, from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. "Given the severity of the shortage, we wanted to respond to the problem immediately and make it free for everyone to participate," said Marvin Lopez, program and recruitment coordinator for the Center. The fair has two purposes – to

encourage members of the public to consider substitute teaching and to serve as a place for districts from throughout the state to share their needs.

“Substitute teachers maintain healthy and successful learning environments for students and provide teachers the time and energy they need to build their professional skills to best support students,” said Glassman-Sommer. “Recruiting and retaining enough substitute teachers to help solve the shortage won’t be an easy task, but it’s one that can be solved if the community gets involved.”

Districts and individuals are encouraged to register for the free virtual fair by visiting thecentervirtualevents.vfairs.com. Click on the “October 21” link to access the registration form. The deadline for districts to register is October 8. Individuals may register until October 20. For questions about registration, contact Marvin Lopez at marvinl@tcoe.org.



“School districts and community organizations can begin to solve the substitute teacher crisis by helping to spread the word,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “Speak at a local service organization meeting, share the information on social media, and reach out through your faith-based organization to promote the Substitute Teacher Fair. I encourage readers to recruit one candidate each to support students in Tulare County classrooms, providing to them the consistency they need to learn, grow and succeed.”

For a copy of the flyer promoting the Substitute Teacher Fair, visit bit.ly/VirtualSubstituteTeacherFair_Oct. To learn more about substituting in Tulare County schools, call TCOE’s Human Resources at (559) 733-6306.

Photo above:

~ Gene Mendes (right) with the Tulare County CHARACTER COUNTS! Program volunteered to substitute in the special day class at Tulare Union High School. Mendes is one of numerous TCOE employees who have stepped into classrooms to assist when a substitute was needed.

Learning & Leadership Forum returns with hybrid offerings

District and school leadership teams are invited to register for the 2021-22 Learning and Leadership Forum, which kicks off October 1. The four-session forum will feature improvement science expert Dr. Pat Greco, returning for the third year. Dr. Greco will build upon last year’s sessions and share tools and approaches for developing culture, leadership, and strategies for organizational improvement.

Dr. Greco will support Tulare County leaders as they utilize the work they’ve done to develop core values and organizational pillars. This year, she will lead participants through 45-day improvement cycles to measure individual and collective progress.

Dr. Greco is a senior director with Studer Education, a national consulting organization. As the former superintendent of Menomonee Falls (Wisconsin) Schools, Dr. Greco successfully used improvement science to accelerate system, school, and student learning. Under her leadership, the district adopted a problem-solving mindset which yielded an impressive array of impacts, including transforming Menomonee Falls High School from a federal designation of “in need of improvement” in 2011 to a *U.S. News & World Report* “top high school in the nation.”



The Learning and Leadership Forum will be held in a hybrid format with registrants able to attend virtually or in-person October 1, December 3, February 11, and April 1 from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. To register for the forum, visit tulare.k12oms.org/147-210022. Each session will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. Documents from past year's Learning and Leadership Forums are available at tinyurl.com/LearningandLeadershipForum.

For additional information, contact Martin Frolli at martinf@tcoe.org.

Around the County

Hispanic Heritage Month museum exhibition features Richard Torrez Jr



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Tulare Historical Museum is holding an art exhibition, *Embracing Identity: Celebrating Hispanic Culture in the Arts*, from now until October 23. The exhibition is free to the community and located at 444 West Tulare Avenue in Tulare.

One exhibit is *Richard Torrez Jr: Upholding a Tulare Family Legacy*. Torrez is a super heavyweight boxer who took home the silver medal at the 2020 Summer Olympics this August. The exhibit highlights Torrez's roots in a boxing family and his journey to the Summer Games.

In 2016, as a student at Mission Oak High School in Tulare, Torrez was nominated as a Kid of Character during the CHARACTER COUNTS! Week campaign. With that honor, he was selected for the Provident-Salierno Family Foundation Award for the Pillar of Respect.

The second exhibit is by the Hispanic Alliance for Culture, Education, and Recognition. It contains colorful ceramic pottery, Mariachi hats, photographs, flyers, and Folklorico dresses.

On Friday, September 24, there will be a free artist reception from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. There will also be a free Hispanic Heritage Month event on Saturday, September 25, from 12:00 until 4:00 p.m. Along with the exhibits, the event will include live music by Rosalinda Verde Alexander at noon, food by Taco Riendo, a vintage car show, and Folklorico dancers at 2:00 p.m.

For more information about the museum's events, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

To nominate your own Kid of Character, fill out the form at tcoe.org/KidsOfCharacter by Friday, September 24. The Pillars of Character K-12 students can be nominated for are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Last year during CHARACTER COUNTS! Week, over 4,600 students from 143 schools in Tulare County were recognized. This year's 26th annual CHARACTER COUNTS! Week Celebration is October 18 – 23.

Photo above:

~ Tulare's Richard Torrez Jr., an amateur boxer, trains with his father, Richard Torrez Sr., in 2019. Vongni Yang/ The Visalia Times-Delta, Tulare Advance-Register.

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.

Learning Resources

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

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Donna Glassman-Sommer, Marvin Lopez, and Maura Sánchez.

To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit tcoe.org/GetTheGallery, or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.