

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek
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California Center on Teaching Careers launches statewide recruitment campaign to help solve teacher shortage



This week, the California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center) – a statewide agency housed at the Tulare County Office of Education – launched a teacher recruitment campaign entitled, “We Want You.” The campaign provides a communications toolkit to assist school districts and communities in attracting new educators to the profession during the state’s acute shortage. Included in the kit are social media graphics, email templates, flyers, website banners, and campaign support.

“California is facing a statewide teacher shortage that will only be solved if we work together,” said Donna Glassman-Sommer, executive director of the California Center on Teaching Careers. “To solve this problem, we must recruit new educators into this field. If even 1% of Californians became educators each year, we’d solve the teacher shortage.”

According to the Center’s research, three-quarters of all California school districts report difficulties in recruiting teachers, and enrollment in teacher preparation programs in California has dropped by more than 70% over the past decade. A recent survey of EdJoin, California’s education jobs site, showed 50,000 open positions. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem with teachers leaving the profession, as indicated by a 26% uptick in retirements from 2019 to 2020.

“I am excited that the Center has launched the ‘We Want You’ campaign. It gives school districts and school networks across California a clear and concise message, along with the tools to help them communicate the great need for teachers,” said Tim Hire, County Superintendent of Schools for Tulare County Office of Education. “This campaign puts the teacher shortage crisis clearly in the minds of the public, helping to rally their support in recruiting teachers across California.”

Once teacher candidates are attracted to the profession, the Center – through its online portal – is able to help them create a profile to connect to preparation programs and districts in their areas of the state. To learn more about becoming a California teacher, please visit info.californiateach.org/we-want-you-teach-california.

To support California's teacher recruitment efforts and learn more about the "We Want You" campaign please visit info.californiateach.org/we-want-you-campaign-toolkit.

CHOICES brings nationally-known threat assessment expert for two-day training

School administrators, counselors, mental health professionals, nurses, and resource officers are invited to register for the CHOICES Program's Assessing Student Threats conference – a two-day training event. The conference will be held Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1 from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Visalia.

The training will be led by John Van Dreal, a school psychologist and retired director of Safety and Risk Management Services for the Salem-Keizer School District in Salem, Oregon. Van Dreal now leads a consulting practice, working with school districts and communities on preventive behavioral threat assessment systems and operational security.

In 1999, he began the development and implementation for the Salem-Keizer Cascade Model, a multi-agency student threat assessment system considered by experts to be a leading practice. Through the collaboration, he worked daily with educators, law enforcement, trial court personnel, juvenile justice, and mental health personnel in preventive behavioral threat assessment – the management of youth and adult threats of aggression toward schools, institutions, and community.



Van Dreal is the editor and principal author of the book *Assessing Student Threats: Implementing The Salem-Keizer System, Second Edition*. He regularly provides training and consultation to audiences nationally on threat assessment systems, preventing and mitigating human violence, school security, and response options for violent intruder and active shooter situations.

The cost to attend the training is \$125 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch each day. To register for the event, visit tulare.k12oms.org/159-213528. For more information, contact Frank Silveira at frank.silveira@tcoe.org.

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