

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

April 13, 2022

Annual Inclusion Collaborative Event scheduled for April 22

Caring For Our Children
Understanding Expulsion in Early Childhood Education

DATE:

APRIL 22, 2022

TIME:

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

LOCATION:

VIRTUAL

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:**

*Dr. Jennifer Johnson
Developmental-Behavioral
Pediatrician, Valley Children's Hospital*



The Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development is hosting its annual Inclusion Collaborative Event virtually on April 22 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This year's theme is *Understanding Expulsion in Early Childhood Education*.

The event's keynote speaker is Dr. Jennifer Johnson, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at Valley Children's Hospital. Dr. Johnson is a native of Fresno. After receiving her medical degree from Saint Louis University School of Medicine in Saint Louis, Missouri, she completed a fellowship in developmental-behavioral pediatrics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Her clinical and research interests include the effect of

trauma and child maltreatment on behavior and development, coordination of care between systems for developmental and mental health problems, and improving access to care in the Central Valley.

In addition to Dr. Johnson's presentation, staff members from TCOE's Special Services Division will conduct two sessions. Bethany Guerra, M.A., BCBA (Bright Start Parent/Infant Program) and Kendall Leonard, MA, OTR/L (Occupational Therapy) will present a session entitled *Relationship between Behavior and Sensory Needs*. Yazmin Prado, LMFT (Behavioral Health Services) will present *Supporting the Mental Wellness of Preschool Age Children*.

The Inclusion Collaborative Event is free and open to parents, caregivers, and educators, but registration is required. To register to attend, visit bit.ly/33YVI70. For additional information, contact Samantha Terry at (559) 651-1723 or samantha.terry@cc.tcoe.org.

Step Up Youth Challenge grant-winning projects presented at Red Carpet Awards



"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." – Arthur Ashe

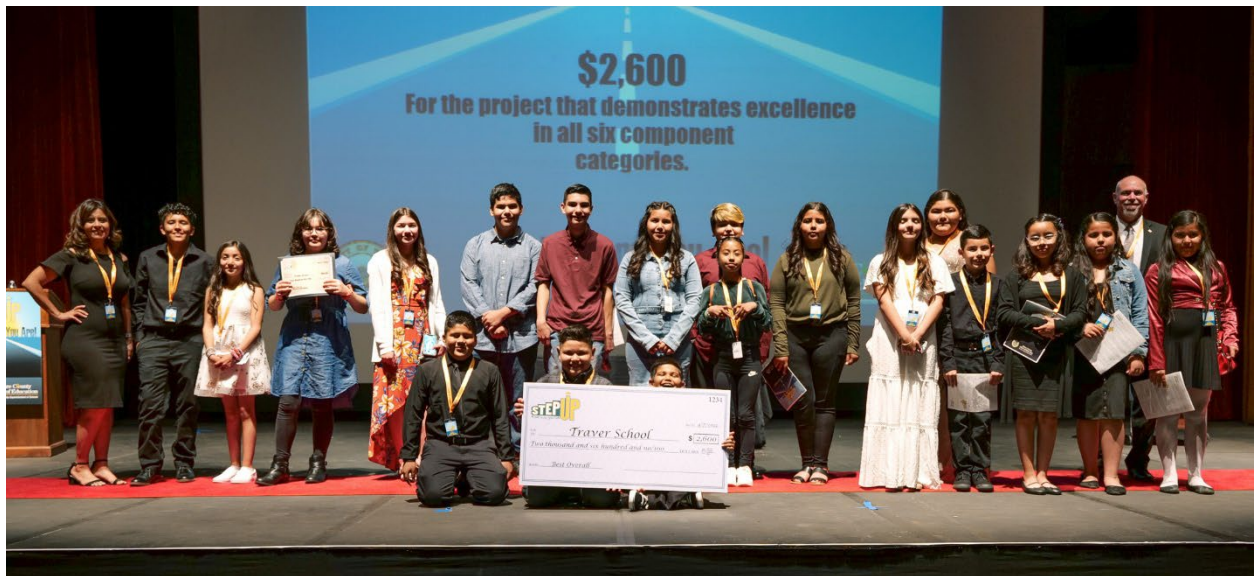
The quote from tennis legend Arthur Ashe was entirely appropriate as the theme of the 2021-22 Step Up Youth Challenge. After being postponed for the 2020-21 school year,

the challenge returned in September just as students were adjusting to full-time, in-person instruction after a year of distance learning and modified schedules. In the beginning, some teams reported to Kelley Petty, the Youth Challenge program coordinator, that they felt disheartened, as if they were starting from scratch.

But start they did. Twenty teams began the challenge; nine completed it. It was no surprise to Petty or the judges that many of the projects focused on the impact of the pandemic on schools and surrounding communities. Teams created projects that touched the lives of elders, supported families and students with much-need supplies, and emotionally reconnected with classmates returning from distance learning.



“In this difficult year, teams pulled through to produce some amazingly touching and impactful projects,” Petty said. “They started with what they had and persevered! Each one, in their own way, positively affected the lives of their fellow classmates, or families in their communities, or addressed the impact we have on our environment. It was tremendously rewarding to celebrate their successes at the Red Carpet Awards.”



The following schools received the challenge's major category awards and grants given by the County of Tulare's Step Up initiative:

Traver Joint School (Traver)
Best Overall Project - Middle School

Tulare Tech Prep High School
Best Overall Project - High School

Accelerated Charter High School (Tulare)
Sustainability Award

Burton Middle School (Porterville)
Impact Award

Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center (Visalia)
Meeting the Need Award

Monache High School (Porterville)
Impact Award

Pioneer Middle School (Porterville)
Community Collaboration Award

Pixley Middle School
Community Collaboration Award

Reagan Elementary School (Lindsay)
Meeting the Need Award

In addition, five schools presented their projects to judges prior to the awards ceremony. For their presentations, each was awarded an additional \$500. These schools included: Burton Middle School, Pioneer Middle School, Pixley Middle School, Traver Joint School, and Monache High School.

The Step Up Youth Challenge is an annual youth development/civic service competition coordinated by the Tulare County Office of Education. Support for the program comes from the County of Tulare's Step Up initiative and the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency.

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

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Samantha Terry, Kelley Petty, Kathleen Green-Martins, and Gene Mendes.

To receive the News Gallery Week, sign up [here](#), or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.