

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

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Courtney Venegas chosen to succeed Beth Wilshire at Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services



This week, Beth Wilshire, founding coordinator of the Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services (FHYES) program will retire. Wilshire joined the Tulare County Office of Education in February 2016 to lead the newly-created program designed to enhance collaboration and build the capacity of local education agencies to serve foster youth.

In recent years, Wilshire envisioned and built support for the Dream Center – a resource center that brings together staff from multiple county agencies to assist foster and homeless youth with education, housing, transportation, employment, other social services, and necessities. At the Dream Center, multiple agencies - including TCOE's FHYES, Tulare County Child Welfare Services (CWS), Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council, and Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency - work

together in a "one-stop shop" to support foster and homeless youth. The Center opened in 2019; an expansion that further unifies county staff was completed this year.

Previously Wilshire worked 20 years for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Tulare County where she supported foster youth navigating through the probation department, court system, and the Child Welfare Services agency.

Courtney Venegas, a Foster Youth Services project specialist, will succeed Wilshire as the program's coordinator. "The Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services program is in good hands with Courtney," said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "Her tremendous passion for supporting foster youth as they transition to college and career, combined with the strong multi-agency operations established by Beth, is the ideal model for helping Tulare County foster youth flourish as young adults."

Prior to joining FHYES in 2018, Venegas spent 13 years with Tulare County CWS, first as a social worker and then as a supervisor. While working as a supervisor for CWS, Venegas was responsible for implementing AB12 (Extended Foster Care) in Tulare County. The bill, enacted January 1, 2012, allowed eligible youth in the child welfare and probation systems to remain in foster care until age 21 and receive benefits.

For more information about the Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services program, visit tcoe.org/FosterYouth.

Fruit & Veggie Fest coming to Lindsay Thursday



Editor's Note: This event was postponed to September 22. Same time and location.

The annual Fruit & Veggie Fest is coming to Lindsay this Thursday (September 1). The event is free and open to those in the community. It will be held from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Lindsay Food Center, located at 455 S. Mirage Avenue.

At the Fruit & Veggie Fest, several different organizations will be available, including Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Public Health, Kaweah Health, Healthy Start, Family HealthCare Network, FoodLink, and more. There will be raffles, prizes, health and nutrition information, physical activity items, and cookbooks available. Free produce will be provided by FoodLink. The Tulare County Office of Education's Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention (NEOP) program will have a booth where they will pass out cookbooks, physical activity items, and nutritional pamphlets.

The Fruit & Veggie Fest is an annual event for the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency's NEOP program and is held in different communities every year. Last year it was held in Pixley, and in 2019 it was in Dinuba. The event is held in communities that have limited resources.

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