

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
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High school students and parents invited to attend annual Tulare County College Night September 13

Representatives from nearly 80 universities and colleges will be on hand at the annual Tulare County College Night to answer questions about entrance requirements, available degrees, and tuition expenses at their institutions. College Night will be held **Tuesday, September 13**, at the Visalia Convention Center.

The event, which will open to students and their families at 5:30 p.m., is designed to provide information on preparing for and applying to colleges. In addition to college representatives, parents and students can attend informational breakout sessions on topics such as financial aid, writing college admissions essays, and college and career planning. Breakout sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. Spanish-speaking representatives will also be available to provide information to parents on financial aid. More information is available at tcoe.org/collegenight.



CVNIC: College-Ready and CLSD Readership convene with representatives from multiple Central Valley counties

Last week, programs within the Instructional Services Division held two conferences for network projects that have partnerships with school districts throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley. The two projects – with focuses on mathematics and literacy – impact thousands of students.

CVNIC: College-Ready

On August 31, the Redwood Conference Center was abuzz with high school site improvement teams from Tulare, Fresno, Madera, and Merced counties. One hundred educators represented 10 school districts with 14 school sites. The group also included representatives from the four county offices of education. The site improvement teams are part of CVNIC: College-Ready (Central Valley Networked Improvement Community) and include district leaders, coaches, counselors, and teachers working together to transform mathematics instruction in grades 9-12.



Organized by Educational Resource Services (ERS) and Leadership Support Services, CVNIC: College-Ready is a project created in 2020 from a grant awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The purpose of the project is to increase the number of Black, Latinx, and low-income students who are college ready as evidenced by acceptance into a four-year university.

Network participants are utilizing improvement science, a methodology for making change in complex systems to uncover and address practices and policies that perpetuate systemic bias, eliminate college-access barriers, build supportive student-adult relationships, and shift adult mindsets and classroom practices to ensure academic success.

Natasha Hoehn, a senior program officer with the Gates Foundation, attended the convening last week. “It’s powerful to see educators bringing hearts and minds to this network,” she said. “The equity focus on providing quality, rigorous instruction for all students is inspiring.”

CVNIC Grant Director Stephanie Verner reports that the Tulare County Office of Education will continue to provide support and training to develop capacity in continuous improvement and mathematics instruction. The ultimate goal of this phase of the work is to harvest the learning from participating network sites to spread more broadly across the four counties, as well as to the larger field of education.

For more information about CVNIC: College-Ready, contact Stephanie Verners at stephanie.verners@tcoe.org.

CLSD Readership

The CLSD Readership grant, co-led by ERS's Jenean Bray and Tammy Milligan, brought together over 100 middle school and high school teachers and administrators to learn about effective literacy strategies as they began a yearlong continuous improvement project. In addition to learning about literacy, teachers gave presentations to the group and learned about many new titles to try with their students.



CLSD Readership was launched in August 2021, funded by a three-year, \$5 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant from the California Department of Education. TCOE was one of seven county offices of education to receive the grant with the purpose of improving literacy throughout the region. At the convening on September 1, the network included 22 schools from 15 districts, as well as representatives from Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced and Mariposa county offices of education, and Jennifer Howerter from the California Department of Education.

"The Joy of Reading" by Donalyn Miller was introduced as the anchor text for this second year of the three-year grant. The author herself joined the team via Zoom for a live interactive session with the participants. Miller left the group with many connections to the day's learning, including ways teachers can help students find the books that they will enjoy. Each teacher left with a copy of Miller's book and will be receiving books to add to their classroom libraries this fall.

For more information about CLSD Readership, contact Jenean Bray at jenean.bray@tcoe.org or Tammy Milligan at tammy.milligan@tcoe.org.

Photos above:

~ CVNIC Grant Director Stephanie Verner works with an attendee at a CVNIC: College-Ready event last week at the Tulare County Office of Education.

~ Those who attended last week's CLSD Readership event received a copy of "The Joy of Reading" by Donalyn Miller.

Red Ribbon Celebration set for October 24-28

The annual Tulare County Office of Education Red Ribbon Week will be held October 24-28 with the theme of “Celebrate Life, Live Drug Free.” The Red Ribbon Week committee will host fundraising activities throughout the week with an emphasis on making positive life choices without the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. This year, the committee has chosen to donate the proceeds collected during Red Ribbon Week to C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tulare County. C.A.S.A. advocates for abused, neglected and abandoned children in Tulare County. Orders for the Red Ribbon shirts – now on sale – are due by **Friday, September 30 at noon**. For a copy of the order form and to see updates about Red Ribbon Week, visit tcoe.org/RedRibbon.



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