

news galleryweek

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California Center on Teaching Careers receives \$15 million grant to increase number of clinical social workers in Tulare County

The California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center) recently received a five-year, \$15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase social worker support in Tulare County schools.



The grant, provided by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary

Education, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, is known as the Preparing Rural Inclusive Mental Health Educators (PRIMHE) project. Working with Special Service's Behavioral Health Services (BHS) over the next five years, PRIMHE will increase the number of credentialed, school-based clinical social workers throughout Tulare County and grow the diversity and cultural competency of mental health service providers.

The PRIMHE project builds on the success the Center has had with its RAMHP (Rural Access to Mental Health Professionals) project, which began in 2019. In partnership with 10 universities and BHS, RAMHP trains Master of Social Work (MSW) candidates by placing them as interns in high-need Tulare County school districts.

PRIMHE will affect over 14,000 students in 12 school districts in the first two years, and will impact nearly 100,000 students across all Tulare County districts over the life of the project.

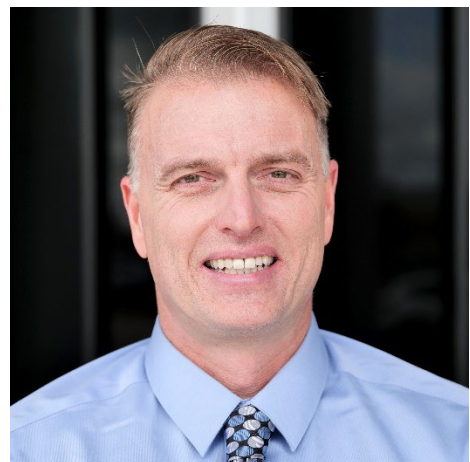
PRIMHE will also recruit, select, and hire eight associate clinical social workers (ASW) annually (40 over the life of the project) for rural schools with demonstrated need. The project will provide clinical supervision, training, professional development, and support through a cohort Community of Practice.

In their first years, ASWs will work as interns and receive a \$20,000 living stipend while completing their clinical experience hours. Once hired at a participating rural district, assistance will be provided to the district to help pay the ASWs' salaries. PRIMHE will contribute salary support on a descending scale over three years (\$75,000, \$50,000, and \$25,000). The project will offer a retention bonus of \$5,000 for ASWs each year of their three-year commitment to serve.

For more information about PRIMHE, contact Marvin Lopez at marvin@tcoe.org.

Dixon chosen to lead ActVnet school safety program

Teacher and veteran Jason Dixon has been chosen to lead the ActVnet program as it expands in Tulare County and beyond. ActVnet is the web-based system that provides designated law enforcement access to a school's cameras, site plans, classroom photos, and other pertinent data in the event of a crisis on campus. ActVnet was developed by the CHOICES Program in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and is being installed in dozens of Tulare County schools.



While in college at Tennessee Tech University as an education major, Dixon was a sergeant in the Army National Guard, where he trained in infantry and tanks. Following graduation, he taught English and history in eastern Tennessee before serving in Iraq with a military contractor, eventually supervising its Middle Eastern Division security and facilities management.

Since moving to California, Dixon earned his Master of Business Administration from Fresno State University and worked in operations for both Target Corporation and CarMax. Most recently, he worked for Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) as their operations and security manager. SCUSD is the 13th largest school district in the state with 75 schools and nearly 50,000 students.

In his spare time, Dixon volunteers as a family readiness group coordinator for the Army National Guard, assisting families who are in need of resources while their spouse or family member is deployed.

“Jason is a big plus to our ActVnet program, as districts outside Tulare County show increasing interest in implementing it,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “His experience in large scale operations and efficiencies, security, and school safety will be an asset as we help districts coordinate the system’s installation, and facilitate the partnerships they establish with their local law enforcement agencies.”

For more information on ActVnet, contact Jason Dixon at jason.dixon@tcoe.org.

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