

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

April 19, 2023

Red Carpet Awards showcase Step Up Youth Challenge grant-winning projects



Last Thursday, 17 teams were recognized for their participation in the Step Up Youth Challenge at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony held at Visalia Fox Theatre. This year's theme was *Building Bridges*.

Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire addressed the crowd saying, "The work you've done this year has certainly created connections within your schools and with other organizations in your communities! You've built bridges! You've impacted the lives of fellow students, those who are unhoused, elders in your community, and the environment in big ways."

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

El Monte Middle School (Orosi)
Middle School Community Collaboration Award - \$1,000

Accelerated Charter High School (Tulare)
High School Community Collaboration Award - \$1,000

Kings River Union School (Kingburg)
Middle School Sustainability Award - \$1,000

Harmony Magnet Academy (Strathmore)
High School Sustainability Award - \$1,000

Pixley Middle School (Pixley)
Middle School Impact Award - \$1,000

Countryside High School (Tulare)
High School Impact Award - \$1,000

Belleview Elementary School (Porterville)
Middle School Meeting the Need Award - \$1,000

Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center (Visalia)
High School Meeting the Need Award - \$1,000

Traver Joint School (Traver)
Phil Cox Best Overall Middle School Project - \$2,500

Golden West High School (Visalia)
Phil Cox Best Overall High School Project - \$2,500



In addition, several schools presented their projects to judges weeks prior to the awards ceremony. Two schools were awarded an additional \$500 for outstanding presentations. These schools were Burton Middle School (Porterville) and Countryside High School (Tulare).

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.

Photos above:

~ Golden West High School (top) and Traver Joint School (bottom) were recipients of the Phil Cox Best Overall Project for high school and middle school, respectively. Golden West and Traver each received \$2,500 grants for their projects.

Students compete at NHD-California state competition

On April 15-16, Tulare County students competed at the National History Day-California State Finals held at California State University, Sacramento. Several of the students were named as runners-up or finalists in their categories.

Catherine Fausto, Emily Ortiz, Emma Lopez, Sally Raygoza, and Sofia Lua of Palm Elementary School (Orosi) were runners-up in the Elementary Group Poster category. Claire Starr, Presley Santos, Case Gallagher, and Jack Silveira of St. Aloysius School (Tulare) were also runners-up in the Elementary Group Poster category. Melissa Hernandez Vargas of Goshen Elementary School was a runner-up in the Elementary Individual Poster category.



The finalists in the Junior Group Exhibit category were Ava Blevins and Ella Faith from Sequoia Union School (Lemon Cove).

Gianna Thornburg of Clay Elementary School (Hanford) was a finalist in the Junior Individual Exhibit category.

Izabella Cavazos, Elizabeth Nuñez, and Kathya Farias of Dinuba High School and Ethan Rojas, Adrian Sandoval, Ivan Martinez, Gabino Villegas, and Kailey Cuevas, also of Dinuba High School, were named as finalists in the Senior Group Exhibit category.

Leah Rankin of Dinuba High School was named as a finalist in the Senior Individual Exhibit category.

National History Day (NHD) is a theme-based research program that showcases original presentations by students in grades 4-12 pertaining to historical issues, ideas, people and events. Students may choose any topic in local, national, or world history and explore its significance relative to the annual theme, which for 2023 is *Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas*.

For more information on National History Day at the county level, visit www.tcoe.org/HistoryDay://tcoe.org/HistoryDay or contact Paula Terrill at paula.terrill@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Leah Rankin of Dinuba High School was named as a finalist in the Senior Individual Exhibit category. Her exhibit was titled *Coco Chanel: Frontiering a Woman's World and Shaping Today's Culture*.

Health pathway students attend Growing Health Leaders Conference

For over 20 years, Tulare and Kings county high school students interested in medical careers have attended the Growing Health Leaders (GHL) Conference. After a three-year break due to the pandemic, the conference returned with the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) hosting nearly 300 health science pathway students this week. TCOE's College and Career program and members of the Tulare Kings College + Career Collaborative were key partners in coordinating the event.



The partner organizations turned out in full force to engage students in learning about health careers. New for GHL was an outdoor emergency medical transport exhibition. A SkyLife Air Ambulance helicopter was flown in for the event, sitting near an American Ambulance and various fire fighting vehicles from Visalia Fire Department and Tulare County Fire Department. First responders were on hand to discuss their careers with students.



GHL is a program of the Tulare-Kings Healthcare Partnership (TKHP), which addresses the healthcare industry's workforce, education, and competitiveness needs in the two counties. The partnership was established in 2009 and supported by the Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB). In 2010, the annual Growing Health Leaders (GHL) conference was launched to engage local high school students in health careers.

Graciela Soto-Perez, chief executive officer of Altura Centers for Health, Tulare, presented the keynote address. Soto-Perez shared her health career journey from middle school hospital volunteer to her current position today as CEO of a large Central Valley healthcare organization.

Following the keynote, students attended breakout sessions featuring more than 30 Tulare and Kings county healthcare professionals representing occupations ranging from physical therapists and pharmacist to physician and environmental health specialist. The presenters represented partner organizations, including Sierra View Medical Center, Family HealthCare Network, Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, Altura Centers for Health, Adventist Health, Kaweah Health, and HealthForce.



Students were also able to meet with representatives from 15 educational organizations that provide health science programs, including adult schools, community colleges, and state colleges and universities.

To conclude the day of health career discovery, students attended a panel discussion with nurses in a variety of specialties. The panel helped students see the many nursing vocations they could enter after high school graduation and the certificate and degree programs available to them.

For more information on the GHL program, contact Shelsy Hutchison at Shelsy.hutchison@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ At the Growing Health Leaders Conference, 300 high school students in health science pathways had the opportunity to hear from professionals working in a variety of health careers. Students were able to ask questions of professionals working in a variety of segments, including first responders, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, and physicians.

Around the County

El Diamante's Tracy Beans announced as a 2022-23 CIF Model Coach Award winner

Congratulations are in order for El Diamante High School cheerleading coach Tracy Beans, who was announced this morning as a 2022-23 CIF Model Coach Award winner.

Now in its 22nd year, the CIF Model Coach Award program is designed to recognize coaches who have served as positive role models in their schools and communities, and who have exhibited the traits apparent in the 16 principles of Pursuing Victory with Honor.

A model coach demonstrates and teaches the six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the "Six Pillars of Character"). The CIF believes that the highest potential of sports is achieved when teachers/coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate, and Model (T.E.A.M.) these values and are committed to the ideal of Pursuing Victory with Honor.



On Beans, the CIF's press release stated:

"A dedicated, impactful, and knowledgeable cheer coach, Beans has been coaching cheer for more than 30 years. She believes and sees the potential in not just athletes but people before they know it. Not only does she coach cheerleading to her athletes but coaches them life skills. Beans is a positive role model and influencer both in the school and the community. She not only has big dreams, but she has the power to inspire others to dream big as well and strive for excellence."

To read the complete press release and see the list of coaches honored, visit cifstate.org/coaches-admin/model_coach/2022-23_mc_rel.

Photo above:

~ El Diamante High School cheerleading coach Tracy Beans was announced as a CIF Model Coach Award winner Wednesday morning.

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