

news galleryweek

April 5, 2023

Registration to first Social-Emotional Learning Summit now free, conference nearing capacity



The 2023 Social-Emotional Learning Summit, which will be held Saturday, May 6 at SCICON in Springville, is now free to the community.

The summit is designed to help attendees imagine ways to elevate student voice and design school systems together with them, their families, and communities. Attendees will also learn strategies on how to connect kids and families to school, and learn about the successes others are having around the county.

In the morning, Orsi High School students will open the conference. The students have been preparing for their leadership role by participating in Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!), a national program that engages youth and adults in the practice of

co-creating vibrant learning communities. Rooted in arts-based methods, the YES! process brings cross-age perspective, vision, creativity, and passion to the forefront of contemporary school system policy and progress. YES! founders Benjie Howard and Wade Antonio Colwell have been working with the student leaders for several months.

Following the opening session, attendees will have the opportunity to connect, experience, and imagine through breakout “adventures” of their choice. Adventures include creating art, acts of service, trail walks, and yoga. There will also be sessions on topics such as mindfulness, self-care, and more. For a complete list of adventures, visit tcoe.org/SELSummit.

Conference registration is being sponsored by CalHOPE. The Summit includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/JikxJNWtVyYNbDRE6>.

For more information about the Summit, visit tcoe.org/SELSummit or contact Lisa Lemus at (559) 302-3629 or lisa.lemus@tcoe.org.

Community Based Instruction students provide valuable service to Early Childhood Education



Kimberly, George, and Elizabeth are nearly hidden by a mountain of clean blankets and sheets piled on a table in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) warehouse in northwest

Visalia. The students are working to wash, dry, and fold hundreds of bedding items for the children in ECE's 20 child development centers. Members of the two Community Based Instruction (CBI) classrooms on Akers Street in Visalia have been providing laundry services for the ECE program for nearly two years.

In the past, ECE's laundry service was not centralized. Some of the child development centers had their own washing machines, while others utilized community laundromats. ECE Administrator Alex Elliott envisioned a process to free the centers from doing their own laundry. Together with Tammy Bradford, assistant superintendent for Special Services, the two developed the plan to launder the children's linens in one location utilizing CBI students.

Each week, clean blankets and sheets are sorted and given to ECE operations staff to deliver to the centers. "I really enjoy coming here," said Kimberly.

Additionally, students from the Akers CBIs deliver supplies to all of the special day classes and CBI classrooms within Visalia Unified School District, and help local businesses with mailing and sorting projects.

In total, Special Services operates 14 CBI classrooms throughout the county. Tulare County businesses and community organizations interested in utilizing the services of one of the CBI classes are encouraged to contact Sarah Hamilton at sarahh@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Kimberly works each week to launder blankets and sheets for the children in 20 Child Development Centers. Her work is part of job skills training that every student in a Community Based Instruction classroom receives.

Exeter student wins prestigious Mock Trial award

Exeter Union High School's Gaby Rodriguez ended her senior year of mock trial by winning the J. Skelly Wright Constitutional Advocacy Award for Outstanding Pretrial Attorney at the California Mock Trial Finals in March. Rodriguez, who will attend UCLA in the fall and major in chemistry, won the award for her performance as defense pretrial attorney.

After winning the Tulare County Mock Trial title in February, Exeter prepared for an additional month for the state championships, which were held at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles on March 17-19.



This year's fictitious case was *People v. Franks* – the trial of Jordan Franks, who was accused of stealing a fellow actor's signet ring – a ring once owned by William Shakespeare. Participants in Mock Trial work directly with legal professionals and attorneys to craft arguments and performances aligned with current law, rules of objection, and precedent from a dozen prior Supreme Court rulings.

The Exeter team was comprised of: Holly Decramer, Eden Diaz, Trinity Elliott, Ethan Gonzales, Wyatt Jardon, Carter Lang, Iani Martinez, Natalie Oneto, Marin Parker, Isabella Payne, Mia Regalado, Gaby Rodriguez, Lizette Rodriguez, Alex Romero, Ryder Stimpel, Megan Thompson, and Gemma Valero. The team was coached by Heidi Carmen, with assistance from attorneys Adam Clare and Roger Wilson.

Photo above:

~ For her performance as defense pretrial attorney, Exeter Union High School's Gaby Rodriguez was awarded the J. Skelly Wright Constitutional Advocacy Award for Outstanding Pretrial Attorney at the California Mock Trial Finals in March.

Around the County

SoCal Edison selects two Tulare County seniors for \$50,000 scholarships



Last week, Cesar Delgadillo from Tulare Union High School and Hannah McCoy from Porterville High School were each surprised with a \$50,000 scholarship from Southern California Edison through the Edison Scholars Program.

According to their website (https://www.edison.com/community/edison-scholars?ecid=engzd_entst014):

The Edison Scholars Program recognizes students who want to be makers of tomorrow — the dreamers, inventors, guardians, and pioneers — those who dare to be great.

Cesar Delgadillo, Tulare Union High School

Delgadillo aspires to study computation and neural systems at the California Institute of Technology or computer engineering technology at another university. He hopes to use computer science to alleviate neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and glioblastoma cancer.

Delgadillo is a Samsung Software of Tomorrow State finalist and a three-year Regional Olympiad Champion. He also worked on a research paper on cerebral organoid technology. This experience and his future education will help him advance solutions to neurological diseases and develop electrical hardware for prosthetic limbs and neural implants.

Hannah McCoy, Porterville High School

McCoy plans to pursue a degree in mathematics because she enjoys understanding complex concepts. Thanks to the excellent support system she found with her teachers, McCoy is the valedictorian of her class and has participated in multiple sports throughout high school.

Having benefited from having supportive teachers, McCoy hopes to pursue a career in education, providing the same support for future generations.

Thirty \$50,000 scholarships will be awarded by Edison International for high school seniors to pursue their dreams in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM).

Photos above:

~ Cesar Delgadillo (top) from Tulare Union High School and Hannah McCoy (bottom) from Porterville High School



were awarded \$50,000 scholarships from Southern California Edison through the Edison Scholars Program.

Monache High School's ESA Pathway named Distinguished NAF Academy



The Environmental Science Academy, commonly referred to as the ESA Pathway, at Monache High School has been awarded NAF's Katherine Blasik Distinguished level recognition – NAF's highest level of certification achievement that reflects a high-quality academic program on a national level.

The ESA Pathway focuses on the sciences and environmental influences around us. Students regularly conduct indoor and outdoor labs with applications to real world settings. They undergo project-based learning in the fields of environmental science, natural resource management, energy science, and culminate their experience with a senior project where they can make a real impact on their community in the area of their choosing.

“Our SCICON and Circle J-Norris Ranch outdoor education programs are richer because of ESA faculty and students,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “Over the years, Monache students have done important studies on oak mortality and helped to replant trees lost to pests and drought. Former ESA teacher Amanda Driver is even now the lead teacher at Circle J-Norris Ranch.”

This is the tenth PUSD Pathway to earn the Katherine Blasik Distinguished recognition by NAF since the start of the PUSD Pathways program in 2008.

To read the complete press release from Porterville Unified School District, visit: www.portervilleschools.org/apps/news/article/1747606.

Photo above:

~ The Environmental Science Academy (ESA) at Monache High School was awarded NAF's Katherine Blasik Distinguished level recognition – NAF's highest level of certification achievement.

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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.