

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

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Debra Lockwood prepares to retire, Valarie Seita chosen as successor



Debra Lockwood, Educational Resource Services' (ERS) library/media supervisor, is preparing to retire this week. Lockwood, who has been a teacher librarian in K-12 school libraries for 35 years, joined the ERS program nearly eight years ago, having served as the teacher librarian for Kingsburg High School for nine years. Her long career includes experience in school, college, and public libraries, even Yellowstone National Park library.

In 2016, Lockwood helped to implement the popular Reading Revolution quiz-style competition for elementary and middle school students. The event was created to promote literacy and the joy of reading, while exposing students to a variety of quality

literature and nonfiction works to increase their reading comprehension and promote teamwork. Last year, nearly 300 students from 40 schools participated in the event.

In addition to the Reading Revolution event, Lockwood reports that she is proud of the work that she and her team have done, including the development of a materials curation service known as Check This Out! She has also helped to introduce the School Library 101 course for both new and experienced school library staff, the Essential Office & Classroom Technology courses, and the Teacher Resource Center workspace. “Most of all, I’m proud of the exceptional service we provide to 10 TCOE departments, 41 Tulare County districts, seven Kings County districts and parents in the homeschool community,” she said of the ERS Library, which serves more than 38,000 students in the two counties.

Valarie Seita, director of Advanced Learning and Library Media Services for Visalia Unified (VUSD), has been chosen to succeed Lockwood as ERS’ library/media supervisor. Seita has been with the district 16 years, as director and library coordinator, teacher on special assignment, and a middle school and high school history social science teacher. Seita began her career in education as a continuation high school and adult education teacher for Alpaugh Unified.

On joining TCOE, Seita said, “I am excited to continue to elevate school libraries for students in Tulare County and I am thrilled to join the TCOE ERS team to embark on this work together.”

Photo above:

~ Valarie Seita (left) and Debra Lockwood are pictured in the Educational Resource Services (ERS) library. Lockwood is retiring this week as ERS’s library/media supervisor. Seita will succeed Lockwood next month. She comes to ERS from the Visalia Unified School District.

Family Astronomy Night is September 15

Enjoy an evening under dark skies viewing planets, constellations, and star clusters during Family Astronomy Night at Circle J - Norris Ranch. Under the direction of amateur astronomers, attendees will navigate to deep sky objects using the program’s five telescopes.



Family Astronomy Night will be held on Friday, September 15 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at 41893 Yokohl Valley Road in Springville. Along with an evening of stargazing, attendees will also have the opportunity to go on a guided night hike around the Circle J pond.

This is a no-cost event but a donation box will be available. The event is limited to 20 participants.

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Circle J lead teacher Amanda Driver at circlej@tcoe.org. Driver can also be reached at (559) 539-2263 (Circle J landline).

Circle J - Norris Ranch, a beautiful 620-acre field trip site in the Sierra foothills, offers a wide variety of field studies programs. Tulare County Office of Education operates Circle J - Norris Ranch as part of the SCICON program, extending outdoor education opportunities to all ages.

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