

Tulare County  
Office of Education

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

news  
galleryweek

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## Fourth annual Equity Conference is April 4



The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) is hosting its fourth annual Equity Conference on April 4. The Equity Conference provides attendees the opportunity to grow and learn so they can make schools safe spaces for every student, staff member, and family.

“Because we believe equity is everyone’s responsibility, we invite educators serving in all roles to join us, and encourage district leaders to bring a team,” said Lisa Lemus, an administrator for TCOE’s Leadership Support Services. “It’s so important we work together to apply the day’s learning to advance educational equity across Tulare County.”

The conference will feature two keynote speakers with inspirational messages and powerful stories. Dr. Jamila Dugan will be the first keynote speaker, focusing on radically reimagining how students and communities are served. The conference will close with keynote speaker Jose Hernandez, who will motivate attendees to dream big and share his recipe that led him to his goal of becoming an astronaut.

The conference also includes breakout sessions that provide deeper learning in specialized areas through the strands of academics, culture and climate, leadership, mental health and wellness, and family and community engagement.

The cost of the conference is \$150. To register, visit <https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-244385>.

For keynote speaker biographies and more information about the conference, visit [www.tcoe.org/EquityConference](http://www.tcoe.org/EquityConference).

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## **Slick Rock Student Film Festival accepting entries, deadline March 8**



Video entries for the 2024 Slick Rock Student Film Festival are due March 8. Middle and high school students living in Tulare, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, or Merced counties may enter videos in a total of 17 categories, ranging from documentaries and blockbusters to public service announcements and music videos.

A “Best of Show” winner for both middle and high school categories will be selected from all films entered in the festival.

Visit [tcoe.org/SlickRock](http://tcoe.org/SlickRock) for information on film categories, deadlines, and the awards ceremony, which will be held live at the Visalia Fox Theatre on May 10.

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## **Tulare County School Boards Association announces annual scholarship**



For nearly 20 years, the Tulare County Office of Education has assisted the Tulare County School Boards Association (TCSBA) with its annual scholarship program. Each year, the association offers scholarships to seniors from every Tulare County high school, including comprehensive, charter, and continuation sites.



This month, scholarship applications were distributed to Tulare County high school counselors. Tulare County high school seniors interested in applying for the scholarship, which is due February 23, 2024, are encouraged to contact their counseling office.

Last year, TCSBA provided 24 scholarships of \$300 each.

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## Circle J's Field Science Day returns February 16



The public is invited to attend and participate in Circle J-Norris Ranch's Field Science Day on February 16.

This event is open to teachers, middle and high school students, and community college students. Teachers and students will have the opportunity to conduct original research and collect data on vernal pool ecosystems, measure water levels, and monitor the animals that depend on the pools.



To reserve your spot for Field Science Day, contact lead teacher Amanda Driver. She can be reached at [circlej@tcoe.org](mailto:circlej@tcoe.org) or (559) 539-2263.

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## ***Around the County***

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### **County opens inclusive playground at Mooney Grove Park**



Members of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and the parks department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday for a large, inclusive playground in Mooney Grove Park. Open to children of all abilities, the playground features a ground-level “orbit” spinner, ramps, a roller slide, inclusive swings, wheelchair-accessible swings, and more.

A grant of \$450,000 for the playground’s construction was provided to the Central Valley Regional Center from the California Department of Developmental Services.



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