

Tulare County  
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news  
galleryweek

March 20, 2024

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ABC30 focuses on career technical education for  
latest *Children First* special airing Sunday



ABC30 has chosen to focus on career technical education (CTE) in its latest *Children First* special entitled "Ready for the Workforce." The special, which is hosted by news anchors Warren Armstrong and Jessica Harrington, airs Sunday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. and streams on [www.abc30.com](http://www.abc30.com). Among the segments are two Tulare County stories.

The agriculture program at Exeter Union High School is profiled with students demonstrating their welding skills plus their own juicing business. Exeter Union High School has the largest high school citrus farm in California.

Granite Hills High School's Law, Justice and Ethics Pathway (LJE) in Porterville will also be featured. The LJE program is just one of two similar high school programs in the nation providing students with stenography training and preparing them for the workforce.

The Tulare County Office of Education's Bill Davis, administrator for College and Career Readiness (CCR) is also featured – providing an interview on California's new \$500 million Golden State Pathway Program (GSPP). The program will support pathway development and enhancement through grants and technical assistance statewide. CCR will lead GSPP for the California Department of Education.

In Fresno County, through *Children First* partner Educational Employees Credit Union, students at Clovis West High School are getting experience working in the credit union's on-campus branch and helping to improve financial literacy among their classmates.

For more information on the *Children First* program, visit [www.abc30.com/ChildrenFirst](http://www.abc30.com/ChildrenFirst).

Photo above:

~ An Exeter Union High School student is pictured welding. He is part of the school's agriculture program, which will be featured in the latest *Children First* special on career technical education. The special airs Sunday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. on ABC30.

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## Free books available through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for Tulare County children

Free books are coming to Tulare County children thanks to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Parton started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over two million free books each month to children around the world.





In partnership with First 5 Tulare County and TCOE's Early Childhood Education Program, the Imagination Library will provide books to registered children, every month, from birth until the child's fifth birthday.

To sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and receive free books, parents and guardians can visit [imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability](https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability).

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## SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival returns next month



The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual SCICON Barbecue & Wildflower Festival will be held Sunday, April 21, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Last year's event was canceled due to flooding caused by the 2022-23 California winter storms.

"We are looking forward to having the community back in person for this annual tradition," said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "Visitors will be able to check out our amphitheater, pond, and bridge renovations."

There is no charge to visit the campus or enjoy the numerous activities, including wildflower walks and entertainment. Springville singer Patti Torrey and her country band will be performing in the lodge. Visitors can also enjoy tours of the museum and raptor center.

Tickets for the barbecue luncheon will be available for \$20 per person for adults, \$15 for seniors over 60, \$15 for current military personnel, and \$15 for children under 12. Cash and credit cards are accepted. Organized by Friends of SCICON, the barbecue raises money to support the SCICON program.

For more information, visit [tcoe.org/SCICON](http://tcoe.org/SCICON), or call (559) 539-2642.

Photo above:

~ Students enjoy an evening campfire skit in the newly renovated amphitheater.

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## California Center on Teaching Careers wins award for virtual recruitment platform



This month, the California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center), was awarded Eventeer Awards' "Best Event in North America" for its virtual Statewide PK-12 Education Employment Fair. VFairs, the international virtual and hybrid events developer that created the Center's teacher recruitment platform, holds the Eventeer Awards annually. Worldwide, event planners from a variety of industries nominated over 130 virtual events with over 3,000 members of the public voting for their favorites in 27 categories.

“The success of our recruitment platform is a testimony to the work of the team from vFairs,” said Marvin Lopez, executive director for the Center. “Over the years, the improvement of the platform has resulted in greatly increased ease of use for both candidates and participating school districts.”

Since launching in November 2018, the Center’s recruitment platform has been used to hold more than 50 statewide and regional teacher recruitment events. Since the system’s launch, over 40,000 educational professionals have connected with 723 California school districts, county offices of education, and universities offering employment or credentialing programs.

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## Around the County

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### Lindsay Community Day announced as an inaugural Model Community Day School

On Monday, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that eight schools – including Lindsay Community Day (LCD) – had been selected as Model Community Day Schools (MCDSs) for 2024, the first year of implementation. Community day schools are schools for students who have been expelled from school or who have had problems with attendance or behavior. The MCDS Recognition Program is a partnership between the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Continuation Education Association Plus (CCEA Plus).



“The honor of winning this award for Lindsay Community Day is a recognition that resonates for both learners and their families as well as our staff,” said LCD principal Amalia Lopez. “As part of our district's learner-centered system, we strive to make Lindsay Community Day an opportunity space for learners, one that meets their needs and supports their goals and offers them a new sense of educational equity. This award is a reflection of the teamwork and commitment of the entire alternative education school staff. Go Knights!”

Lopez added that LCD’s award builds on last year’s success of the Lindsay Unified School District’s continuation high school also being selected by the CDE as a model continuation school.

During the three years that schools are designated as an MCDS, the CDE and CCEA Plus will identify them as resources for districts that are planning to establish new community day schools, and for new and existing community day schools that would like expert support to expand and deepen their educational practices.

To view the complete press release from the CDE, visit <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr24/yr24rel14.asp>.

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Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Alex Elliott, Dianne Shew, Marvin Lopez

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.