

news galleryweek

April 3, 2024

Registration open for Theatre Company summer camp and The Parent Trapped Preshow



Registration is now open for the TCOE Theatre Company summer camp and the preshow for this year's summer production.

The OnStage Summer Camp is open to Tulare County students who will be entering 1st-6th grades in Fall 2024. Over the course of three weeks in June, students will learn theatre skills, build confidence, make friends, and perform Disney's *Frozen Kids* musical on June 28. The cost of the camp is \$100 per student. Those interested can visit tcoe.org/TheatreCo/Productions/OnStage for more information and a link to register.



The Parent Trapped Preshow is another summer opportunity available to Tulare County students entering 1st-6th grades in Fall 2024. The preshow will take the stage each night before the Theatre Company's summer production of *Freaky Friday*. The cost of the preshow registration is \$75. Those interested in participating in the preshow can visit tcoe.org/TheatreCo/callboard for more information and a link to register.

Scholarships are available. Registration closes June 3 and space is limited, however students may register for both the camp and preshow if they are up for the challenge and time commitment.

For more information on registration and scholarships, or any additional questions, email Theatre Company director Bethany Rader at bethany.rader@tcoe.org.

Students showcase their Step Up Youth Challenge projects



This morning, students from 14 Tulare County middle schools and high schools brought their completed Step Up Youth Challenge projects to present to a panel of judges. Student teams have worked since September on developing and implementing a service project that included community partner agencies. The projects were widely varied – addressing drug abuse, the needs of pets, student mental health, foster youth, farm workers, and bullying, among others.

Today's presentations were an optional exercise in the competition, which will announce winners and cash prizes at a red carpet ceremony on April 30. One middle school and one high school team will receive a special cash prize of \$500 for the best presentation made today. Cash prizes will also be awarded in five competition categories, including the "Phil Cox Best Overall Award" for one middle school and one high school team. The awards ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. on April 30 in the Redwood Conference Center at the Tulare County Office of Education's Mooney Administration Building.



"I encourage educators who are unfamiliar with the Step Up Youth Challenge to come to the awards ceremony," said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. "Seeing the power that students have to transform their schools and communities through this program is really inspiring. The other benefit of the Step Up program is the transformation of its participants. Through their service, students are growing as communicators, planners, and leaders."

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:

~ Top: Aria, a member of the Monson-Sultana School Step Up team, explains how their project supported members of the farmworker community and how the students worked in a fruit packing house to better appreciate the work of their friends and family members that work in agriculture.

~ Bottom: Mission Oak High School students present their project that focused on a mentorship program with future, incoming freshman students.

Young Authors' Faire now online



What's better than a princess? A warrior princess!

In Zoey Martin's story, *Warrior Princess*, a brave princess ventures out into a magical world with just her dog and a stick – no sword yet for the preteen. Martin, a sixth grader from Rockford Elementary School (Porterville), writes about the princess' adventures, which include helping reunite families after turmoil and taking down a troll.

Warrior Princess is among 55 imaginative books written and illustrated by 126 students from 12 Tulare County schools. These books are a part of Young Authors' Faire (YAF) and can be enjoyed through the Virtual Book Gallery link at www.tcoe.org/YoungAuthorsFaire.

Every year, the Tulare County Office of Education invites students to participate in YAF. The event offers budding writers in grades K-8 an opportunity to showcase their writing and illustration work at the county level and be recognized in a variety of

genres. Exemplary works will be recognized at the end of April in categories such as: fiction, non-fiction, class book, graphics/images, and hand-drawn illustration.

Photo above:

~ Rockford Elementary School sixth-grader Zoey Martin wrote a story about a princess and her adventures titled, *Warrior Princess*. The book is among 55 written and illustrated by Tulare County students for Young Authors' Faire.

Planetarium to offer two public shows Saturday



On Saturday, April 6, the Planetarium & Science Center will offer a 2:00 p.m. and a 3:00 p.m. showing of its popular *Earth, Moon & Sun* program. Through the program, audiences will learn how the Earth, moon, and sun work together as a system, and the myths and science behind it. Audiences will also see constellations during different seasons, explore the moon's phases and orbit, and learn about past and future space travel to our moon and beyond. The program is recommended for ages six and up, but all are welcome.

For show information and trailers, and to purchase tickets, please visit tcoe.org/planetarium. To check the status of a show or for assistance with purchasing tickets, please call (559) 733-6433 or email planetarium@tcoe.org.

The Center's TRRE residency program featured in national case study



TRRE

*TEACHER RESIDENCY
FOR RURAL
EDUCATION PROJECT*

Palo Alto-based Learning Policy Institute (LPI) has featured one of the residency programs offered by the California Center on Teaching Careers (The Center) in a recently published case study. The Teacher Residency for Rural Education (TRRE) project was one of five California residency programs deemed among the state's most effective programs as judged by graduates and their employers. Included in the case study are ways in which the programs exemplify eight research-based characteristics of effective residencies. Also included are strategies for designing and funding programs that are sustainable and support candidates so they can afford to attend.

TRRE is a partnership of the Center, California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), and seven school districts in Tulare, Kern, and Kings counties. The TRRE project is for graduate students seeking to obtain a single-subject credential with a focus in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), earn a master's degree in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction, and participate in high-quality professional development in computer science from CSUB. The partner school districts include Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District, Delano Joint Union High School District, Hanford Joint Union High School District, Tulare County Office of Education, Tulare Joint Union High School District, Visalia Unified School District, and Wonderful College Prep Academy.

Founded in 2015, LPI conducts and communicates independent research to improve education policy and practice. LPI seeks to advance evidence-based policies at the local, state, and federal levels that support empowering and equitable learning for each and every child. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, LPI works with policymakers, researchers, educators, community groups, and others to strengthen the education system from preschool through college and career readiness.

"In California, we are seeing a growing number of new teachers choosing to enroll in a residency program to obtain their credential," said Marvin Lopez, executive director of The Center. "We are honored that LPI chose to feature TRRE in its case study, which provides participants with a unique STEM focus, plus year-round clinical experience and wrap-around support from our office, the university, mentors, and their hosting district." LPI reports that through the state's large-scale investments in teacher

residencies since 2018, today, nearly 10% of all newly prepared teachers in California come through a residency pathway.

To read the case study, visit www.learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/successful-teacher-residencies-brief.

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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.