

Tulare County  
Office of Education

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

news  
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## Educators invited to attend Second Annual CTE Summit

Tulare and Kings county career technical education (CTE) teachers and administrators are invited to the Second Annual CTE Summit, planned for September 19 at the Tulare County Office of Education's (TCOE) Mooney Boulevard building. The full-day training was designed to bring education, workforce, and industry partners together to continue the work of building a regional talent pipeline.

The summit will feature a variety of breakout sessions on topics that include pathway development, dual enrollment, middle school program expansion, work-based learning, career and technical student organization (CTSO) program success, grant writing, and more.



Ashley Swearingin, president and CEO of the Central Valley Community Foundation, will be the summit's keynote speaker. Swearingin oversees the foundation that serves the six counties of Central California and has secured over \$600 million in charitable contributions and grant funds to support nearly 1,000 civic organizations in the past five years alone.

Swearingin has nearly 25 years of experience in community and economic development in California's Central Valley, serving as mayor of Fresno from 2009 through 2016. In addition, Swearingin has led the Governor's Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, California State University, Fresno's Office of Community and Economic Development, the Regional Jobs Initiative, and the Central Valley Business Incubator. She serves on numerous regional, statewide, and national boards of organizations dedicated to inclusive economic growth, promoting democracy and civic engagement,

and fulfilling America's promise, including New America, the Urban Institute, the College Futures Foundation, California Forward, and the James B. McClatchy Foundation.

The CTE Summit is a partnership between the Tulare Kings College + Career Collaborative, TCOE's College and Career Readiness, and the Kings County Office of Education. To register, visit: <https://kings.k12oms.org/89-251022>.

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## CHARACTER COUNTS! kicks off new school year with a series of trainings for teachers and coaches



The CHARACTER COUNTS! Program will continue its trainings this fall for all Tulare County educators.

Coaches, athletic directors, administrators, officials, and other youth leaders are invited to register for the Pursuing Victory with Honor (PVWH) sportsmanship workshop being offered September 4 at the TCOE Mooney Boulevard building. This in-service will help participants develop the tools and strategies needed to coach the Six Pillars of Character in athletics and activities. Participants will also learn to turn values into behaviors, as well as develop implementation plans to Teach, Enforce, Advocate, and Model the Six Pillars of Character on their teams. New this year, coaches are invited to bring two or three student-athletes to join in an interactive activity.

To register for the PVWH training, scheduled for 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., visit <http://tulare.k12oms.org/1530-255048>.

The annual fall two-day training will be held September 5 and 12. This training will help participants learn more about CHARACTER COUNTS! (CC!) and why character development matters for a positive school climate, academic success, and social-emotional growth. Tulare County teachers and administrators are invited to the training to learn how CC! strategies help students build self-awareness, self-management and decision-making skills, social awareness, and relationship skills. Registration is available at <https://tulare.k12oms.org/1530-254283>.

For questions about building your character education or sportsmanship programs, contact Kelley Petty, CHARACTER COUNTS! program coordinator, at [kelleyp@tcoe.org](mailto:kelleyp@tcoe.org).

Photo above:

*~ Coaches interested in building character in their student-athletes are encouraged to attend the Pursuing Victory With Honor (PVWH) training on September 4. The PVWH training is one of two character development seminars offered by the CHARACTER COUNTS! program next month.*

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## Educators encouraged to register to participate in annual Step Up Youth Challenge



The annual Step Up Youth Challenge kicks off next month with an advisor training on September 25 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the TCOE Mooney Boulevard building in Visalia. Advisors are encouraged to register for the mandatory training by visiting <http://tulare.k12oms.org/1530-254289>.

Details on the Youth Summit, community service project development and submission process, and the Red Carpet Awards ceremony will be shared at the advisor training. Continuing on November 13 and 14, advisors and their student team members will come together for full-day Youth Summits at McDermott X in Lindsay. The summits are designed to motivate and inspire students on their journeys to create impactful community service projects. Middle school teams will attend the November 13 training; high school teams will attend the training on November 14.

Since the 2012-13 school year, the Step Up Youth Challenge has been a vehicle for students to create projects that benefit their schools and communities. Often working alongside community agencies, dozens of middle and high school teams have participated over the years to develop projects that address a wide range of issues – from hunger, bullying, and depression to literacy, fitness, and community beautification. Through the yearlong process of developing their projects, students learn how to identify community needs, develop a project plan, and implement it in partnership with others. Along the way, they gain real insight into the process of community change.

Participating middle and high school teams will compete for grants totaling \$13,000. The Step Up Youth Challenge is coordinated on behalf of the County of Tulare and the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency by TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! program. For more information, contact Kelley Petty, program coordinator, at (559) 740-4303 or [kelleyp@tcoe.org](mailto:kelleyp@tcoe.org).

*Photo above:*

*~ Students from Monson-Sultana Joint Union School are pictured working in a local packing house. As part of their Step Up Youth Challenge project last year, the students experienced agricultural work and developed a resource fair for local families in partnership with other organizations.*

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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.