

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

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New annual report features stories of the individuals who benefitted from TCOE programs, now serving the same programs as adults



UC Merced student and Woodlake High School alumni Andres Aguilar represented the university at the SCICON Barbecue & Wildflower Festival in April. Standing in front of the university's big blue and gold Mobi Mobile Maker Lab, Aguilar greeted visitors, explaining the various science-related academic programs offered.

Ten years before, Aguilar attended SCICON as a sixth grader. His SCICON counselors and interns impressed him. “How do they know so much?” he laughed. “I wanted to know what they knew!” Curious, Aguilar became increasingly interested in biology. By high school, he had decided to pursue biological studies in college.

Accepted to UC Merced, Aguilar’s natural curiosity and enthusiasm bloomed. The fourth-year biological sciences major plans to continue his studies in graduate school, possibly pursuing a Ph.D.

In June, Aguilar returned to Tulare County to support local high school students who were working as interns during the annual Long-term Oak Forest Inventory (LOFI), led by UC Merced researchers and conducted at the Circle J-Norris Ranch.

“Andres’ story is one of several we are calling ‘full-circle’ moments, where individuals are now giving back to programs that benefited or inspired them as students,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “It is a joy to see the impact TCOE’s programs have been making for decades.”

The 2023-2024 Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) Annual Report was released to the Tulare County Board of Education and TCOE staff members last week. It features stories about the work various TCOE programs performed last year, as well as three new projects the organization is working on this year.

To see a copy of the annual report, visit tcoe.org/Newsroom.

Tulare County Office of Education receives \$10M grant to expand successful residency program to northern and southern California

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced that the Tulare County Office of Education was awarded a five-year, \$10 million grant to expand one of its successful teacher residency programs. The grant will be administered by TCOE’s California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center), which has a long history of designing and implementing teacher residency programs.

The new residency program will be known as the Teacher Residency for Rural and Urban Education Project (TRRUE). It represents a statewide partnership between three county offices of education (COEs) and three



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universities providing educational services in the northern, central, and southern regions of California.

TCOE and the Center will lead a partnership with San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE), California State University, Fresno (Fresno State), California State University, San Diego (San Diego State), and California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt (Cal Poly). Eleven high-need districts in Tulare, Humboldt, and San Diego counties will develop and support a continuum of highly-qualified, diverse teachers and leaders that will serve in high-need districts in rural communities (Tulare County, Humboldt County) and in urban and suburban districts in San Diego County.

The project will recruit and prepare 388 teacher residents, support 90 teacher residency mentors in pursuit of National Board Certification, and elevate 30 of the 90 mentors into the administrative residency pathway by the end of the project (2029). The 11 partner districts serve 185,201 high-poverty, underrepresented students of color in rural, suburban, and urban districts. Districts participating in the project were chosen because of their high percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and because of consistent teacher vacancies in special education, English, and science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM).

During the first 12 months of the program, TRRUE residents will simultaneously complete credential coursework and a year-long classroom clinical experience alongside their mentor. Program participants will have the option to complete a master's degree in education after earning their preliminary credential. TRRUE residents will receive a living stipend in the amount of \$40,000 during their one-year clinical residency. TRRUE mentors will receive a stipend in the amount of \$4,000.

With over two decades of experience in teacher recruitment and support, TCOE was awarded California Center on Teaching Careers Grants in 2001, 2006, and 2017; the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant (TQE) in 2002-2008, the Transition To Teaching Grant (TTT Grant) for 2004-2014, Teacher Quality Partner Grant (Reforming Teacher Education and Teacher Residency Program in Collaboration with three institutions of higher education (IHE) and two COEs), a Teacher Quality Partnership Grant (Teacher Residency for Rural Education, TRRE 2019), two California Teacher Residency Grants – one Residency Implementation grant (2022) and one Residency Capacity grant (2023). The Center also secured a California School Counselor Residency Capacity grant (2023) and a California Apprenticeship Initiative Grant (2024), expanding the residency pathway offerings.

For more information, visit tcoe.org/CCTC.

Around the County

Tulare County schools receive statewide PBIS recognition

Twenty Tulare County schools were recently recognized at the state level for their implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS). Over 2,000 schools received recognition from the state with awards in Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze categories.



Platinum: Cutler Elementary School, El Monte Middle School (Orosi), Golden Valley Elementary School (Orosi), Lovell High School (Orosi), Orosi High School, Dinuba High School, Grand View Elementary School (Dinuba), Jefferson Elementary School (Dinuba), John F. Kennedy Elementary School (Dinuba), Lincoln Elementary School (Dinuba), Roosevelt Elementary School (Dinuba), Washington Intermediate School (Dinuba), Wilson Elementary School (Dinuba), Garden Elementary School (Tulare), Mission Oak High School (Tulare), Sierra Vista Charter High School (Tulare), Tulare Union High School

Gold: West Putnam Elementary School (Porterville)

Silver: Sierra Vista High School (Dinuba), Oak Valley Union Elementary School (Tulare)

California PBIS is a collaborative organization using evidence-based, culturally relevant practices to build the capacity for all stakeholders in the implementation of PBIS as a multi-tiered system following the National PBIS Blueprints for professional development, implementation, and evaluation. For more on California PBIS, visit pbisca.org.

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