

Tulare County  
Office of Education

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

news  
galleryweek  
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## Vanessa Vakharia, the Math Guru, comes to Tulare County next week for free public event

Central Valley teachers and parents are invited to a free evening workshop on February 4 featuring internationally known math educator and author, Vanessa Vakharia. Vakharia, who founded a math tutoring company called The Math Guru in Toronto, Canada, will present "How to Raise Kids Who are Not Afraid of Math." The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the TCOE Administration Building at 6200 South Mooney Boulevard in Visalia.



As an artsy, musical student, Vakharia figured she didn't need math for her career aspirations. But after failing 11<sup>th</sup> grade math twice, her parents had other ideas. Enrolling her in an alternative school, she met a teacher who ignited her passion for mathematics and created "an obsession with making sure that no one ever feels inherently bad at anything - especially math - ever again," Vakharia said.

Vakharia will cover five simple strategies to change how teachers and parents should approach students who struggle with math.

Still artistic and musical, Vakharia co-leads a Toronto-based alternative rock band, Goodnight Sunrise.

Teachers and parents are encouraged to register for the event at [tulare.k12oms.org/147-260339](http://tulare.k12oms.org/147-260339). For more information, call (559) 651-0548, extension 3333.

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## Lip Sync returns with “Wild Wild West” theme, teams invited to register to compete



CHOICES Programs is gearing up for the return of its high-energy, annual CHOICES Lip Sync Battle. The long-running live event is open to all 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Tulare County.

Teachers are invited to register their teams of students by March 14. To register and for information about competition rules, visit [bit.ly/2025CHOICESLipSync](http://bit.ly/2025CHOICESLipSync).



The Lip Sync Battle will be held Friday, May 2 at the Visalia Fox Theatre. This year's theme will be the "Wild Wild West". Schools can enter one act per category – lip sync (performance-based) and dance (choreography). There is a limit of 10 students per group with an advisor needed for each group.

The CHOICES Lip Sync Battle was created over 30 years ago as a fun, life-affirming event to help young people develop their courage and inner strength to lead lives free from alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and gangs. For more information on the CHOICES Lip Sync Battle, contact Brittany Quinonez at [brittaney.quinonez@tcoe.org](mailto:brittaney.quinonez@tcoe.org), or at (559) 651-0155.

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## College and Career Readiness partners with state to lead CTE Leadership Development Institute



This year, the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) College and Career Readiness (CCR) department was selected by the California Department of Education to lead the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Leadership Development Institute (LDI). This

statewide professional development program is training and supporting 30 currently employed CTE professionals from both secondary and postsecondary education. The institute offers Professional Development Modules (PDMs) aimed at preparing future CTE administrators.

Last week, LDI members met for the first time in Fresno to complete six of the 30 training modules. Moving forward, the modules will range from half-day to full-day sessions, focusing on the practical application of current trends in CTE organization and delivery across California. TCOE is collaborating with recognized experts to ensure the content is relevant and actionable.

Shelsy Hutchison, CCR engagement specialist, is leading this initiative on behalf of TCOE. With a long and impactful career in CTE, Hutchison has served as a secondary CTE business teacher, career technical student organization advisor, and college business instructor. In addition, she and her family own a business in Visalia, demonstrating their entrepreneurial spirit. Hutchison is an active member of the California Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) board and the California Association for Career Technical Education (CACTE) board.

“Our program is thrilled to collaborate with the California Department of Education on this important project and appreciate Shelsy for providing the leadership,” said Bill Davis, administrator of College and Career Readiness.

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