

# Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

## SELECT PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

### CHARACTER COUNTS!

Tulare County schools are national models of implementation for the CHARACTER COUNTS! ethics training program. Locally, many community partners support the program, including the Gannett newspapers *Visalia Times-Delta* and *Tulare Advance-Register*. The program also includes a competitive sports ethics component entitled Pursuing Victory With Honor.

Contact: Kelley Petty at (559) 740-4303, or [kelleyp@tcoe.org](mailto:kelleyp@tcoe.org)

### CHOICES Prevention Programs

CHOICES comprises programs assisting students to make positive, proactive choices about the way they are going to live and work. CHOICES includes Friday Night Live, a large countywide After School Program, various prevention education programs related to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gangs and violence, the Slick Rock Student Film Festival, and the regional Student Mental Health Initiative.

Contact: Adam Valencia at (559) 651-0155 or [adamv@tcoe.org](mailto:adamv@tcoe.org)

### Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP)

ECEP serves children throughout the county, operating 31 child development centers and a home-based program. Child Care also coordinates contract services with independent child care providers. The program, operated with state and federal funds, includes an extensive health and behavior program, parent engagement and academic preparation for kindergarten.

Contact: Connie Smith at (559) 651-3022, or [connies@cc.tcoe.org](mailto:connies@cc.tcoe.org)

### Educational Resource Services (ERS)

A 2014 Golden Bell Award-winning program, ERS offers a vast library of instructional materials and access to tools such as the Common Core Connect website. Administrators benefit from extensive professional development trainings related to Common Core, self assessment and evaluation of instructional programs. ERS instructional consultants offer a wide range of in-service trainings in all subject matters, technology, project based learning and college/career readiness.

Contact: Charlene Stringham at (559) 651-3831, or [charlenes@ers.tcoe.org](mailto:charlenes@ers.tcoe.org)

### La Sierra Military Academy

La Sierra Military Academy offers a military-style program to middle and high school students. A recipient of the prestigious California State University System's CAPP Demonstration Partnership Grant, La Sierra places a major emphasis on helping students prepare for college and career, physical training, community service and self discipline, while building social and emotional resiliency.

Contact: Anjelica Zermefio at (559) 733-6963, or [azermeno@see.tcoe.org](mailto:azermeno@see.tcoe.org)

### Planetarium and History Theater

The facility is composed of two classrooms: the History Theater and the Sam B. Peña Planetarium. The planetarium provides over 20,000 visitors each year with the opportunity to explore the wonders of the universe and a variety of other astronomy-related topics, while the History Theater provides numerous programs on local and state history and social science topics.

Contact: Conan Palmer at (559) 737-6334, or [conanp@tcoe.org](mailto:conanp@tcoe.org)

### SCICON Outdoor Education Program

SCICON is located on 1,100 acres in the foothills of Tulare County. Over 15,000 fifth- and sixth-grade students visit the outdoor education school each year. The program also includes a field study site (Circle J-Norris Ranch), a natural history museum, raptor center, planetarium and observatory, and nursery.

Contact: Dianne Shew at (559) 539-2642, or [dshew@tcoe.org](mailto:dshew@tcoe.org)

### Student Events

The Tulare County Office of Education offers over 30 student events ranging from science and literacy competitions to project-based learning exhibitions and entrepreneurial challenges.

To learn more about many of them, visit [tcoe.org/StudentEvents](http://tcoe.org/StudentEvents).

### Theatre Company

The Theatre Company was created in 1998 to teach students solid fundamental theatre skills, instill professional discipline and work ethics, establish career connections and provide young people a safe and challenging place to create and express themselves. The Theatre Company offers a constant stream of workshop and performance opportunities, including a large summer production.

Contact: Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, or [brianr@tcoe.org](mailto:brianr@tcoe.org)

### University Preparatory High School

University Preparatory High School (located on the College of the Sequoias campus) is an early college charter school that prepares students for success in college while offering them college credits. The small high school features a robust arts program, including drama, dance, music and fine arts. The school also emphasizes leadership development and service to others.

Contact: Eric Thiessen at (559) 730-2529, or [erict@tcoe.org](mailto:erict@tcoe.org)



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