

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

March 4, 2004

For Immediate Release

Contact: Pamela Kunze
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606
cell: 559/901-3445

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

19th Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair Sequoia Mall - March 8 - 14, 2004

The Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 8 - 14, 2004, at the Sequoia Mall during normal mall hours. This year, nearly 260 science projects representing approximately 40 schools in Tulare County will be on display for public viewing.

"The Science and Engineering Fair is a catalyst for students to explore many different areas of interest," states Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "I'm encouraged to see how many of these projects put science to work in solving real-world issues like conservation, food production and communication."

Students in grades four through 12 submit projects for judging by science experts from the private and public sectors. Students participating in the Science Fair will set up their projects on Monday, March 8, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Judging will take place that evening, with the top 18 projects identified as "Sweepstakes Winners." Besides the top 18 projects, there are various awards identified, such as; five Ag Project winners, five Health Project winners and an Environmental Vision award sponsored by The Gas Company®. The students in grades six through 12, who receive a Sweepstakes Award, will be interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators on Wednesday, March 10. The panel will select the top science fair projects to continue on to the State Science Fair.

-more-

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 9 and 10, community members visiting the Sequoia Mall will be able to vote for their favorite projects. Projects with the most votes will be awarded a "Community Choice Award."

An awards ceremony will be held Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Center Court/Sequoia Mall. Deserving student scientists will be awarded plaques in each of the following areas: Sweepstakes, Agriculture, Health, Environment, and Community Choice Awards. Additionally, those projects that will continue on to the California State Science Fair will also be announced.

For information about Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, contact the Public Information office at (559) 733-6606 or visit our website at www.tcoe.org. For more information about the 19th Annual Science and Engineering Fair, contact, Jonathan Janzen, Science Consultant, at 651-3043.

#TCOE#

Rel: 10/04