

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

May 25, 2005

For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Collaborative Leadership Institute To Hold Graduation June 17, 2005 • 5:30 pm • Workforce Investment Department

The Collaborative Leadership Institute (CLI) is a project of the Tulare County Office of Education funded by First 5 Tulare County, the California Endowment and the Great Valley Center. On Friday, June 17, CLI will hold a public graduation to present its second cohort of men and women identified as emerging leaders in Tulare County children's services. The reception will be held in the Apricot-Plum Room of the Tulare County Workforce Investment Department, located at 4025 West Noble, Suite A in Visalia from 5:30 until 7:00 pm.

Founded in 2001, CLI is working to ensure the continuing vitality of child services providers in Tulare County by identifying and developing emerging leaders, and motivating them to work together. The Collaborative Leadership Institute is directed by Barry Sommer, Educational Psychologist, MFT, and director of Student and Family Services at Pixley Union School District.

“I’m delighted with CLI’s continued work in mentoring future children’s healthcare, education and social services leaders,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Since the program’s founding, nearly 40 men and women have graduated. The experience gained and the bonds built are creating a stronger, more collaborative network of local children’s services providers for Tulare County.”

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Members of the 2004 – 2005 Collaborative Leadership Institute include:

Elvira Barron
Tulare County Office of Education
Child Care Program

Merced Doria
Lindsay Unified School District

Jose S. Garcia
Pixley Union School

Cyndee Garcia
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Jaime Lynch
CASA of Tulare County

Vicky Medina
Central Valley Regional Center

Wally Parks
Visalia Youth Services

Anacelis Rodriguez
Tulare County Hispanic Commission on
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services, Inc.

Brad Rohrback
Strathmore Unified Schools

Tina Sandoval
Tulare County Office of Education
Child Care Program

Deborah Tobias-Gatewood
Synchrony of Visalia, Inc.

Tracy Tucker
Burton School District

Cathy Volpa
Tulare County Health & Human Services

Tim Zavala
Tulare Youth Service Bureau

For more information on the Collaborative Leadership Institute, contact Barry Sommer at 757-3131, extension 106.

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