

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Tulare County Students Receive Honors at State Science Fair**

Eight Tulare County students competed earlier this week at the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual California State Science Fair in Los Angeles. Of the science projects they entered, two received awards. The event, which attracted 850 top entries from throughout California, was held Monday and Tuesday, May 22 – 23, at the State Science Center.

Joseph Taviano, an eighth-grade student from St. Paul's School in Visalia, won Fourth Place (Honorable Mention) in the Behavior Sciences category with his project: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Joseph's teacher is Mr. Gregory Storseth. Kathryn Keeley, a seventh-grade student from Three Rivers Elementary, received The Muses Award for Outstanding Achievement – a \$1,000 award given to a young woman for achievement in junior high school science or math. Kathryn's project was "Factors Affecting Germination of Native & Non-native Plants in the Sierra Nevada." She completed in the Plant Biology category. Her teacher is Mr. Manual Garcia.

"We are extremely proud of the achievements our students realized this year at the State Science Fair," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "The winning

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projects each year are amazing pieces of research. We appreciate the students' dedication to their work and the support and encouragement they receive from parents and teachers.

Over 200 students in grades four through 12 compete in the annual Tulare County Science Fair. The top eight projects – as judged by a panel of teachers and scientists – are eligible to compete in the annual California State Science & Engineering Fair.

For information about Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, contact the Public Information office at (559) 733-6606 or visit: [www.tcoe.org](http://www.tcoe.org). For more information about the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Science and Engineering Fair, contact Jonathan Janzen, Science Consultant, at 651-3043, or visit [www.tcoe.org/sciencefair](http://www.tcoe.org/sciencefair).

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