

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:

Friends of SCICON Announce Annual Honorees

Earlier this month, the Friends of SCICON, a non-profit organization, held its annual SCICON Awards Dinner. The dinner took place at the John Muir Dining Lodge on the SCICON campus. After a brief business meeting, the following individuals and organizations were recognized for their exceptional support of the SCICON program.

Receiving the *Laurel Leaf Awards* as the top high school cabin leaders of the year were **Denise Oliveras** of **Strathmore High School**, **Seth Emerson** of **Citrus High School (Porterville)**, **Whitney Qualls** of **Farmersville High School** and **Manuel Vejar** of **Tech Prep High School (Tulare)**. These students were selected out of 1,000 high school cabin leaders as being exemplary role models for the sixth-grade students at SCICON. In addition to their awards, they also received a scholarship from the Friends of SCICON and the Association of California School Administrators Region XI for college expenses.

The Friends of SCICON then presented *Awards of Merit* to the following individuals and organizations. **Bill DeLain**, of **Southern California Edison**, was recognized for his work on behalf of supporting program improvement projects at SCICON. **Ann Garner**, Career Center Technician,

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Porterville Unified School District, was recognized for many years of service in recruiting and training high school students to serve as cabin leaders at SCICON. **Ron Buenafe**, retired **Tulare City Elementary Schools** administrator, was honored for his many years of supporting Tulare students attending SCICON. **Donna Gill-Luallen**, retired **Strathmore School** superintendent, was also recognized for her work on behalf of SCICON and the Friends of SCICON. **Lois “Pogie” Ingram, SCICON Instructor**, was thanked for her care and concern for all students at SCICON. **Del Baker (Porterville)**, was honored for his years of service to SCICON as an **Earlimart School District** maintenance foreman. **Danni Franklin, SCICON Liaison**, was appreciated for her work in preparing sixth grade classes to come to SCICON and for the leadership trainings she conducts for high school students. **Lorena White**, programmer analyst with the **Tulare County Office of Education**, was recognized for developing the outstanding SCICON website. Kevin Matteson, network services manager for the **Tulare County Office of Education**, was also recognized for his assistance in developing the internet connectivity for the SCICON campus. **Mickey Hirni, Exeter Elementary Union School Board**, was honored for his many years of supporting students at SCICON. **Robin Galloway**, Wildlife Biologist, **United States Forest Service**, was honored for her work in developing exemplary lessons and projects at the Circle J – Norris Ranch. **Laura Linton, SCICON Instructor**, was appreciated for her outstanding work as an instructor at the Circle J – Norris Ranch. **Ted and Asih Olson**, of **Olson Computer Services (Porterville)** were awarded a Lifetime Membership with the Friends of SCICON for their assistance with internet services.

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