

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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Media Alert

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Teams compete in 4th Student Entrepreneur Challenge February 25 and present to county's top business and economic development leaders 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Visalia Convention Center

On Thursday, February 25, 2010, teams of young entrepreneurs from Tulare, Fresno and Kings county high schools will present projects they have developed in response to The Gas Company's Student Entrepreneur Challenge. The Challenge – an event sponsored by The Gas Company – is designed to encourage students to develop products, services or other economic growth ideas that can be applied in the San Joaquin Valley. The teams participating in the event this year represent the following schools: Golden West High School (Visalia), Porterville High School, Monache High School (Porterville), Washington Union High (Fresno County) and Lemoore High School. The student projects range from agricultural innovations to socially-oriented retail ventures.

Teams will present to a panel of judges beginning at 9:00 a.m. By 11:30 a.m., the judges will select the top three teams to present again before an expanded audience. For the first time in the event's history, the top teams will join the Economic Development Corporation of Tulare County's annual luncheon

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entitled, *Recognizing Excellence in Entrepreneurship*. During the luncheon, the top three student teams will present their business concepts to prominent Tulare County business, community and economic development leaders in attendance.

At the end of the luncheon, judges will announce the winners and distribute the prizes, including a Best Overall Presentation award, Best Business Plan and Best Exhibit. In total, more than \$2,500 in prizes will be given to the participating high school programs. A scholarship, sponsored by TUCOEMAS Federal Credit Union in the amount of \$1,000, will also be presented to one high school student.

The Student Entrepreneur Challenge was created from the vision and support of The Gas Company with coordination by the Tulare County Office of Education and the Lyles Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Fresno State.

“We are pleased that the Student Entrepreneur Challenge continues to grow and be supported by The Gas Company,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We also appreciate that students now have the opportunity share their ideas with local business leaders through the event’s new partnership with the Economic Development Corporation.”

For more information please contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at (559) 733-6606.

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