

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: Gold Star Leaders Announced

In conjunction with KGPE, Channel-47, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak presented Gold Star Leader Awards to four Tulare County students on Tuesday, January 15, 2002. The Gold Star Leader Award is a program developed by Channel 47 to recognize students for their achievements in community service.

The four Tulare County students, along with four Fresno County students will be profiled during a prime-time special Friday, January 25, 2002, at 8:30 pm. The program, entitled "Gold Star Leaders, Serving the Heart of the Golden State," will preempt CBS's regularly-scheduled telecast. Tulare County students receiving the Gold Star Leader Awards include: Joel Ruitter, an eighth-grade student at Central Valley Christian in Visalia; Sarina Iniquez-Aviles, a senior at Woodlake High School; Timothy Johnson, a senior at Porterville High School; and Monica Lopez, a senior at Tulare Union High School.

Each of the students presented the Gold Star award impressed TV-47's review panel with their dedication to their communities. "Classroom studies are only a part of a complete education," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "These extraordinary students have benefited in immeasurable ways from their experiences volunteering in a variety of community organizations – from nursing homes to city government. I'm certain they will be better adults for their commitment."

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The student profiles from the prime-time show will be repeated during TV-47's 5:00 pm news program over a two-week period beginning Monday, January 28, 2002. For more information regarding the program, contact Robert Herman at 733-6606.

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