

# 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: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair Visalia Mall – March 4- 8, 2002**

The Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 4 – 8, 2002, at the Visalia Mall during normal mall hours. This year, nearly 250 science projects representing approximately 40 schools in Tulare County will be on display for public viewing. Students in grades 4 through 12 submit projects for judging by science experts from the private and public sectors.

“The Science & Engineering Fair is a catalyst for students to explore so many areas of interest,” states Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “I’m encouraged to see how many of these projects put science to work in solving real-world issues like conservation, food production and communication.” The Tulare County Science Fair is an affiliate of the California State Science Fair. As such, science fair projects from Tulare County selected by a team of Science Educators will continue on to the California State Science Fair.

Students participating in the Science Fair will set up their projects on Monday, March 4, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Judging will take place that evening, with 15 Sweepstakes winners, 5 Ag Project winners and 5 Health Project winners identified. The students receiving a Sweepstakes Award from grades 6-12 will be interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators on Wednesday afternoon, March 6. The panel will select the top science fair projects to continue on to the State Science Fair. On Tuesday and Wednesday,

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March 5 and 6, students and community visiting the Science Fair display, will be able to vote for their favorite projects. Projects with the most votes will be award a "Student Choice" Award & a "Community Choice Award." An Awards Ceremony for all plaques (Sweepstakes, Agriculture Project and Health Project) will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2002, at 6:30 pm in the Food Court/Visalia Mall. The projects that will continue on to the California State Science Fair will also be announced that evening.

The Science & Engineering Fair was established to:

- Encourage independent research
- Promote the understanding and importance of science
- Be educational, rather than competitive
- Stimulate interest and support science and math education in our schools
- Promote and encourage scientific thinking
- Provide a public event to display the thinking and work of students
- Illustrate that science is a creative human endeavor
- Encourage students to study science, math and engineering as potential career areas
- Give public recognition to talented students for their work

For more information contact, Jonathan Janzen at 651-3043.

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