

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news galleryweek

March 9, 2022

Students awarded Best of Show honors in annual Student Art Exhibition



In conjunction with National Arts Education month, organizers of the annual Student Art Exhibition have selected over 200 Best of Show winners from pieces in this year's exhibition.

The Student Art Exhibition opened as a virtual art gallery in December. The gallery features 476 hand-drawn and digital works, photographs, and sculptures from 43 Tulare County schools.

From the 476 submissions, judges selected 207 works for Best of Show honors. Students, educators, and community members are invited to visit the gallery at tcoe.org/ArtGallery to see the pieces selected, which are organized into smaller galleries by school.

Photo above:

~ *The Krusty Krab Miniature* by Golden West High School's Isiac Gutierrez, Juan Rodriguez & Sean Boyer was a Best of Show award winner.

Tulare County College Night Scholarship deadline extended

First awarded in 2006, the annual Tulare County College Night Scholarship is given to one graduating senior who has an outstanding academic record and a commitment to community service. The scholarship was envisioned by the TCOE College Night Committee as a \$1,000 award, renewable for up to four consecutive years.

Tulare County graduating seniors are invited to submit applications for the College Night Scholarship by visiting cnsa.tcoe.org/Welcome. The application deadline has been extended to March 25, 2022.



The website includes information on the submission requirements, including an application, two written essays, two academic recommendations, and official transcripts. Finalists for the scholarship will be interviewed by the committee April 28.

School nurse Ana Borba receives Excellence in School Nursing Award

Last month, TCOE school nurse Ana Borba was awarded the Excellence in School Nursing Award for the Central Valley Section of the California School Nurses Organization. For nearly 22 years, Borba has provided school nursing services in several small Tulare County school districts.

“Ana is a person who has a wealth of nursing knowledge, dedication, compassion, and drive,” said Christina Rodriguez, program manager of School Health Programs. “She is seen as a leader in the field of school nursing as she provides and improves access to healthcare for our students and families in Tulare County.”

A graduate of the College of the Sequoias nursing program, Borba began her career in 1985, working in surgery at Sacred Heart Hospital in Hanford and Hanford Community Hospital. Borba later worked at Sierra View District Hospital in Porterville and was trained to become one of the first Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) in Tulare County, having completed UCLA’s certification program. In 1995, she obtained her bachelor’s degree and Public Health Nurse Certificate from CSU Dominguez Hills. In 2016, she obtained her Master of Science in Nursing from Fresno State University.

In 2000, Borba joined the Tulare County Office of Education as a credentialed school nurse. “I quickly learned that nursing in the educational setting meant you were more than a nurse, but a mentor, liaison, and a friend to the students, families, and staff,” she said.



Currently, Borba primarily serves Alta Vista School in Porterville. She works closely with her district superintendent on policies to ensure the optimal health of students and staff. She developed and implemented the COVID-19 testing program and is an active member of the school's teams for Multi-tiered System of Supports, Individualized Educational Plans, and leadership.

Photo above:

~ Ana Borba, TCOE credentialed school nurse, is pictured at a Roaring 20s-themed event where she received the Excellence in School Nursing Award from the California School Nurses Organization.

Women's History Month resources available through ERS



March is Women's History Month, which has been recognized in the United States since 1987. During March, the country celebrates women's contributions to history, culture, and society. From science to politics, March is an opportunity to reflect on the trailblazing women who lead the way for change.

To support educators in teaching and celebrating Women's History Month, the Educational Resource Services (ERS) Library has curated a collection of books and digital resources, including recently-acquired picture books, novels, magazines, videos, and nonfiction works, and shared it with teachers in Tulare and Kings county schools who contract with the library for services. The ERS Library has biographies on women from around the world available for check out in Follett Destiny and online digital resources available via the ERS Portals.

For more information on ERS library and media services, visit tcoe.org/ERS/Library.

Your Character Matters returns to highlight kids with character



Since 2015, Tulare County Office of Education has partnered with KSEE24 to highlight Tulare County kids of character in a series called “Your Character Matters”.

The series for this school year began last week with Jaymien Colon, a sixth-grade role model at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School in Visalia. Colon was highlighted for both his leadership and maturity. “I just absolutely love to have him as a student,” Colon’s teacher Mariah Young said.

For stories on Colon and past Your Character Matters students, visit www.yourcentralvalley.com/your-character-matters/.

Segments of Your Character Matters air on Tuesdays during KSEE24's 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. newscasts and then again on Wednesdays at 5:00 a.m., Midday News and the Central Valley Today show at 3:00 p.m.

Students enjoy disco-themed Stars in the Hills prom



The 17th annual Stars in the Hills prom for Porterville students with special needs returned to Granite Hills High School Saturday, March 5. Students danced all night at the disco-themed prom.

Andy Garcia and Victor Ayala were the prom kings, while Jacqueline Arredondo, Destiny Magallon, and Alice Sapien were named prom queens.

Stars in the Hills is sponsored by the Porterville Breakfast Rotary Club and supported by the community. Gowns and tuxes were paid for by the Rotary Club, while boutonnieres, corsages, blankets, and food were also provided to students on arrival. Several students arrived via a party bus decorated by Porterville Military Academy. Students from several Porterville Unified School District high schools also helped at the event.

Photo above:

~ Students dance to "Y.M.C.A." at the Stars in the Hills prom at Granite Hills High School.

Around the County

Porterville basketball finishes season as section champions, SoCal Regional finalist



Porterville High School girls basketball team's season came to a close in Tuesday night's CIF Southern California Regional Division III championship game. Third-seeded Porterville lost 62-49 to top-seeded La Salle High School (Pasadena).

On February 25, No. 3 Porterville won the CIF Central Section Division II championship by beating No. 4 Sierra Pacific High School (Hanford) 56-42. The team finished the season with a 29-5 record.

Photo above:

~ Porterville High School girls basketball team poses with the championship plaque after winning the CIF Central Section Division II championship on February 25. Photo courtesy of Porterville High School Facebook.

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Paula Terrill, Juliana Davidian, Therese Arnold, Christina Rodriguez, Debra Lockwood, Kelley Petty and Katrina Smith.

To receive the News Gallery Week, sign up [here](#), or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.
