

Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news galleryweek

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IMPACT Intern Program distributes \$1.8 million in grants to teacher candidates

Last week, the IMPACT Intern Program distributed checks to program participants totaling \$1.8 million. The checks were made available to enrolled teacher candidates through the Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG). The distribution event celebrated the first year of GSTG eligibility for IMPACT. In total, 90 of IMPACT's interns received the full GSTG award amount of \$20,000.

IMPACT Intern Program's Michelle French reports that additional grant funding is currently available for candidates in the upcoming school year. To be eligible for the grant, teacher candidates must be enrolled in an accredited preliminary program, such as TCOE's IMPACT Intern Program, and complete a preliminary credential in one of the following high-need areas: multiple subject, education specialist, single subject math, or single subject science.

Grant recipients must also commit to teaching four years at a priority school site in California. GSTG recipients may use the award to pay for expenses related to tuition, program fees, assessment fees, housing, food, clothing, and transportation.



For more information on the IMPACT Intern Program and eligibility for the Golden State Teacher Grant, attend the next IMPACT Intern Program information meeting on June 7. Register at tulare.k12oms.org/259-215809.

Photo above:

~ Gabriele Ibarra (r), a multiple subject program intern, poses with IMPACT Intern Program Supervisor Michelle French. Ibarra, a teacher at Pleasant View Elementary, was one of 90 interns to receive a Golden State Teacher Grant of \$20,000 last week. Learn more about her teaching journey in a story on ABC30 at www.abc30.com/teaching-tulare-county-credentials/11676028.

Samantha Tate leads Educational Resource Services

This month, veteran educator Samantha Tate assumed the lead at Educational Resource Services (ERS), which provides districts with training and support services in all curriculum areas, and offers numerous student events, technology support, and library and media services.

Tate worked for TCOE's Leadership Support Services since 2017, providing support in the area of state and federal program funding, school plan development, LCAP development and



strategic planning, and site and district English Learner Advisory Committees. Tate has also served as Region 7 English learner lead at the California Department of Education for Title III Programs and state English learner lead for the Statewide System of Support.

Prior to joining TCOE, Tate served Visalia Unified for 25 years – as a teacher, instructional math coach, assessment coordinator, and principal for 10 years at Royal Oaks Elementary and Shannon Ranch Elementary. She was also the district's director of TK-6 curriculum.

“Improving the education of each and every student drives me to want to be better at what I do to serve them,” Tate said. “I am blessed that at TCOE’s Leadership Support Services, and now ERS, I have had the opportunity to look at and learn how our educational system works for students and improve on what we do. I am surrounded by colleagues who work hard every day making a difference for the communities we serve and their students.”

Marvin Lopez chosen to succeed Donna Glassman-Sommer at the helm of the California Center on Teaching Careers

When Donna Glassman-Sommer retires in June as executive director of the California Center on Teaching Careers (The Center), a familiar face will fill her position. Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire announced this week that Marvin Lopez, The Center’s assistant executive director, will be promoted to executive director.



Lopez has worked side-by-side with Glassman-Sommer for 20 years on more than 10 large state- and federally-funded projects awarded to the Tulare County Office of Education. The grants were awarded to TCOE’s Central California Teacher Recruitment Center and later the California Teacher Recruitment Program to aid in regional and state teacher recruitment and training. In 2016, a competitive California Department of Education grant won by TCOE helped create the statewide California Center on Teaching Careers.

“With two decades of experience in teacher recruitment and training, and connections throughout the state, I have every confidence that Marvin will continue the great work of The Center,” Hire said. “He is skilled at building partnerships with state agencies, university systems, school districts and county offices of education, and industry partners to address California’s teacher shortage.”

Legacy, Before They Get You win Best of Show at Slick Rock Student Film Festival



Congratulations are in order for Minarets High School and Heartland Charter School students after they took home the Best of Show awards at the Slick Rock Student Film Festival last Friday at the Visalia Fox Theatre.

Legacy won the High School Blockbuster award before also being announced as the High School Best of Show winner. The film was made by Ryan Abner, Lynden Johnson, Sam Franco, Jacob Spain, Nick Sultana, and Evan Bethel of Minarets High School in O'Neals.

Also winning both the Blockbuster and Best of Show in the middle school categories was, *Before They Get You* by Benjamin Embry of Heartland Charter School in Bakersfield.



This year, Slick Rock received over 330 films for 16 categories from middle and high school students across six Central Valley counties.

Below is a complete list of this year's Slick Rock winners:

- **Best of Show – Middle School:** *Before They Get You*, Heartland Charter School (Benjamin Embry – Blockbuster)
- **Best of Show – High School:** *Legacy*, Minarets High School (Ryan Abner, Lynden Johnson, Sam Franco, Jacob Spain, Nick Sultana, Evan Bethel – Blockbuster)
- **Animation:** *Stranded*, El Diamante High School (Sebastian Calvanese Carter)
- **Blockbuster – Middle School:** *Before They Get You*, Heartland Charter School (Benjamin Embry)
- **Blockbuster – High School:** *Legacy*, Minarets High School (Ryan Abner, Lynden Johnson, Sam Franco, Jacob Spain, Nick Sultana, Evan Bethel)
- **Documentary – Middle School:** *How Women's Inventions Changed the World*, Clark Intermediate School (Jourdin Alanis-Montano, Alyssa Santiago)
- **Documentary – High School:** *The Curious Case Of Chopper the Alligator*, El Diamante High School (Samuel Zurek, Thomas Martinez, Devin Lilley, Vincent Lozano Jr., Yuliana Montanez)
- **Flavored Tobacco Vaping PSA:** *Was It All A Dream*, West High School (Jasmine Garcia, Meriyah Oliver, Aston Aviles, Leila Pantoja, Tierra Jefferson, Luis Gurrola)
- **General Advertisement – Middle School:** *Roll Me Some Advertisement*, Reyburn Intermediate School (Daniella Cuenta, Ava Tucci-Cooper, Aileen Larios)
- **General Advertisement – High School:** *Coast2Coast Pizza*, Minarets High School (Ryan Abner, Sam Franco, Brandon Guy)

- **General Public Service Announcement – Middle School:** *You Can Be The Change* PSA, Fairmont K-8 School (Addisen McQuone, Brooke Barrett, Hadyn Taylor)
- **General Public Service Announcement – High School:** *The Fear Of Missing Out* PSA, Minarets High School (Ryan Abner, Lynden Johnson)
- **Music Video – Cover:** *This Is What Falling in Love Feels Like*, Coalinga High School (Jesse Lucero)
- **Music Video – Original:** *Miss You*, Redwood High School (William Youngquist, Nikko Gutierrez, Kylen Gray-Jacobson, Campbell Crites, Mandy Redden)
- **News Broadcast:** *Ranger TV Mandy Redden Story*, Redwood High School (Ambrose Bueno, Mandy Redden, Emerson Pressley, Alayla Ayala, Natalie McDonell, Campbell Crites)
- **Opioid Fentanyl and Marijuana Prevention PSA:** *Choose Life*, Redwood High School (William Youngquist, Nicholas Amstutz, Hannah Johnson)
- **Sports Highlights:** *Return of the Rangers*, Redwood High School (Clara Houser, Ashtyn Cripps, Kate Rosson, Preston Minnick, Nikko Gutierrez, Adeline Fierro)
- **Suicide Prevention PSA:** *A Better Day*, Monache High School (Gabrielle Sutherland, Briana Martinez)

Slick Rock is generously supported by the Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force, ABC30, EECU, and Tulare County HHSA Programs (Operation Prevention; Tobacco-Free Coalition; and the Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services).

For more information on Slick Rock and to see the winning films, visit www.tcoe.org/SlickRock/Winners.

Photos above:

~ "Legacy" filmmakers pose for photos after their film won *High School Blockbuster* and *High School Best of Show* at the Slick Rock Student Film Festival.

~ A scene from "Before They Get You," the winner of both the *Middle School Blockbuster* and *Middle School Best of Show* categories by Benjamin Embry from Heartland Charter School.

TCOE's Foster Youth Service wins FAFSA/CADAA Challenge



The TCOE Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services (FHYES) program is once again being recognized in the California Foster Youth FAFSA/CADAA Challenge as having the highest rate of completion of the federal student aid application in the first round, small-size county category.

Thirty-four eligible foster youth completed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) by the March 2 priority deadline — which was 100% of eligible foster youth in the county. Tulare County was the only county to reach a completion rate of 100%.

The California Foster Youth FAFSA/CADAA Challenge, led by John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) in partnership with the California Department of Education and the California Community College Chancellor's Office, is a statewide campaign to increase the number of foster youth who are prepared for success as they matriculate from high school into college by ensuring that they are accessing financial aid.

The current statewide FAFSA/CADAA completion rate is 53.6 percent, an increase of 6% from the same reporting period last year, but a near 10% decline from 2019-2020. The decline sheds light on concerns about the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and distance learning on foster youths' postsecondary educational goals and readiness. In response, JBAY has extended the deadline for the final round of the FAFSA/CADAA Challenge to ensure counties have additional time to provide individual

support to foster youth high school seniors prior to graduation. The final completion rate and winners will be announced in July.

Photo above:

~ TCOE's Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services team was presented with a check for winning the California Foster Youth FAFSA/CADAA Challenge at the California Foster Youth Education Summit held in Monterey.

Reading Revolution showcases county students' reading comprehension



In May, Tulare County students participated in the annual Reading Revolution event held at TCOE's Redwood Conference Center. Over 100 students from 14 schools took part in the elementary division, while another 100 students from 14 schools were part of the middle school division.

Reading Revolution is a fun competition designed to promote literacy and the joy of reading for students in grades 4-8, regardless of their abilities. The goal of the event is for students to experience a variety of quality literature and nonfiction, while increasing reading comprehension, and promoting collaboration and teamwork.

In the elementary school division, students prepared for the competition by reading from the same core list of 14 book titles, given to them in August. Teams of four answered questions in a variety of formats and with varying levels of difficulty.

The overall winners for the 2022 Reading Revolution competition for elementary schools were:

First Place: No Spoilers, Manual F. Hernandez Elementary School, Visalia

Second Place: Visalia's Inspired People, Oak Grove Elementary School, Visalia

Third Place: Valiant Bibliomanics, Oak Grove Elementary School, Visalia



In an optional competition that did not count towards team scores, was the Cover That contest. Students chose their favorite book from the list and drew a reimagined cover inspired by what they read.

The elementary division winners were:

First Place: Leonor Buenrostro, Veva Blunt Elementary

Second Place: Yaeline Soto, Pixley Elementary

Third Place: Brielle Valdez, Cottonwood Creek Elementary

For the middle school division, students read from the same core list of 12 book titles instead of 14. Following their day of competition, the overall middle school winners were announced as:

First Place: Reading Gives You Wings, Sequoia Union School, Lemon Cove

Second Place: The Brilliant Bibliophiles, Ridgeview Middle School, Visalia

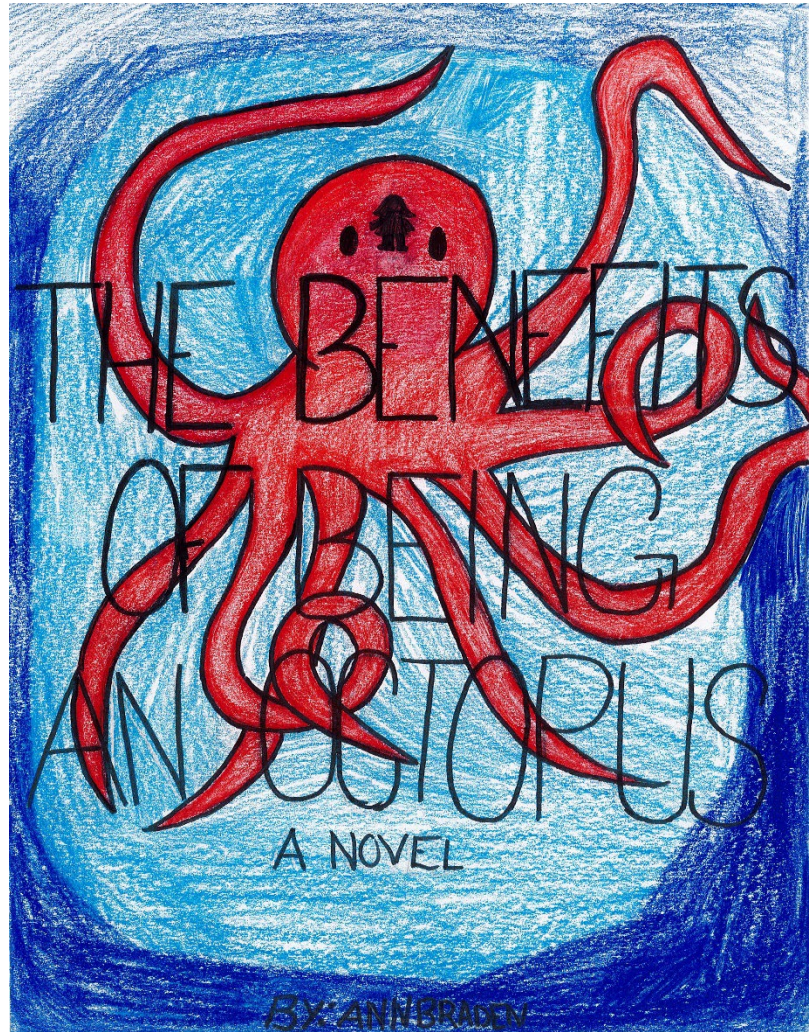
Third Place: The Fantastic Book Investigators (FBI), Ridgeview Middle School, Visalia

The middle school Cover That winners were:

First Place: Joannie Atchison, Alta Vista Elementary

Second Place: Between the Pages team - Yanira Chavarria, Anahi Flores, Cristian Garcia, and Daniel Tapia, Woodville Elementary

Third Place: Vincent Fernandez, Pixley Middle School



For more information on Reading Revolution, visit [tcoe.org/Reading Revolution](https://tcoe.org/Reading%20Revolution).

Photos above:

~ Reading Gives You Wings from Sequoia Union School were the overall winners of the 2022 Reading Revolution competition for middle schools.

~ No Spoilers from Manual F. Hernandez Elementary School were the overall winners of the 2022 Reading Revolution competition for elementary schools.

~ Joannie Atchison of Alta Vista Elementary took first place in the Cover That competition for middle school students.

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