

Tulare County
Office of Education
Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news galleryweek

August 3, 2022

TCOE employees honored for 1,325 years of service



This week, the Human Resources Division honored employees celebrating service milestones at the first annual TCOE Convocation. The convocation was held on Tuesday at the Visalia Convention Center. Human Resources honored 85 staff members who marked their 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service to the organization and the children of Tulare County. Human Resources reported that the staff members dedicated a combined 1,325 years of service.

“We were delighted to incorporate the annual Service Milestone Awards into our first all-staff convocation,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “For the first time ever, the careers of the honorees could be celebrated by the entire TCOE staff.” Approximately 1,330 employees attended the convocation and celebrated their colleagues who reached the following service milestones. Employees also participated in team-building activities, learned about the important work each program is doing, and helped raise money for the TCOE Foundation.

35 Years

Manuela Silveira, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program

30 Years

Victoria Contreras, Secretary, CHOICES Program

25 Years

Connie Brassfield, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program

Jerome Braun, Teacher, Court/Community Schools

Melody Camarillo, Student Information Systems Specialist, Special Services

Leonor Delgado, Teacher, Early Childhood Education Program

Laura Flores-Fielder, Instructional Assistant, Special Services Mild/Moderate Program

Lynne Goodwin, Administrator, California Friday Night Live Partnership

Linda Hamilton, Personnel Support Technician, Human Resources

Anna Herrera, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program

Maria Huerta, Eligibility Specialist, Early Childhood Education Program Connections for Quality Care

Gabriela Mendez, Teacher, Early Childhood Education Program

Virginia Pulido, Teacher, Early Childhood Education Program



20 Years

Josefina Alvarado, Teacher Assistant, Early Childhood Education Program

Sergio Barron, Facilities Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Program

Laurie Bryant, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program

Irma Ceja, Supervisor, Early Childhood Education Program
 Martha Chavez, Teacher Assistant, Early Childhood Education Program
 Veronica Guerrero, Special Projects Assistant, CHOICES After School Program
 Julie Joseph, Instructional Consultant, Educational Resource Services
 Lorena Lopez, Supervisor, Early Childhood Education Program
 Raquel Marquez, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Maria Molina, Teacher Assistant, Early Childhood Education Program
 Alta Penn, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Beth Powers, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Kimberly Rice, Library Media Technician, Educational Resource Services
 Karen Smalling, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program



15 Years

Ronni Aguilar, Teacher, La Sierra Charter School
 Gerald Arellano, Instructional Consultant Support Technician, Educational Resource Services
 Denise Cifuentez, Facilitator, CHOICES After School Program
 Elizabeth Cochran, Occupational Therapist, Special Services Occupational Therapy
 Daniel Del Villar, Program Manager, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Teresa Demacabalin, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Amanda Diaz, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Adrienna Dodson, Program Analyst, California Friday Night Live Partnership
 Arturo Figueroa, Teacher, University Preparatory High School
 Jessica Galeana, Educational Technology Specialist, Special Services Bright Start Program

Maria Garcia, Kitchen Supervisor, Early Childhood Education Program
 Benjamin Gimlin, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Kathleen Green-Martins, Project Coordinator, CHARACTER COUNTS!
 Laura Lawrence, Cook, SCICON
 Teresa Munoz, Instructional Assistant, Special Services Bright Start Program
 Irma Nanez, Teacher Assistant, Early Childhood Education
 Diana Oliver, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Maria Rivera, Custodian, Early Childhood Education
 Laura Rodriguez, Personnel Technician, Human Resources
 Virginia Sepeda, Project Coordinator, Regional VII System of Support for Expanded Learning
 Isabel Southern, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Karon Valdivieso, Principal, Court/Community Schools
 Phillip Valencia, Lead Maintenance Worker, Maintenance & Operations
 Fredna Van Dellen, Teacher, Visually Impaired, Special Services
 Rachel Weaver, Administrator, Special Services Related Services



10 Years

Erica Aguilera, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Tessa Blackwell, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Richard Bodily, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Gregory Brown, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Lisa Brown, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Special Services
 Sintia Cabrera, Mental Health Clinician, Special Services Behavioral Health Services
 Douglas Cairns, Instructional Technology Specialist, Educational Resource Services
 Maria de Jesus Chavarin, Teacher Assistant, Early Childhood Education
 Veronica Cruz, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Claudia Garza, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program
 Sarah Humason, School Psychologist, Special Services Psychological Services
 Lorena Lemus, Rehabilitation Management Specialist, Special Services Intervention

Resource Classrooms

Venancio Lopez, Social Worker, Special Services Behavioral Health Services

Robert McCool, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program

George McKean, Orientation Mobility Specialist, Special Services

Rachel Mendes, Teacher, Special Services Mild/Moderate Program

Tiffany Menini Brown, Behavior Consultant, Special Services Bright Start Program

Maria Montano, Mental Health Clinician, Special Services Behavioral Health Services

Andrew Montgomery, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program

Alisha Montoya, Prevention/Intervention Education Specialist, CHOICES Program

August Moran, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program

Misty Nevarez, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program

Dominique Niccoli – Messchaert, Physical Therapist, Special Services Physical Therapy

Lisa Pace, QRIS Coach, Early Childhood Education

Julie Pascoe, Instructional Assistant, Special Services AcCEL Program

Elizabeth Quilla, Special Education Teacher, Special Services Bright Start Program

Linda Rodriguez, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Special Services

Serena Rodriguez, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Special Services

Daniel Romero, Teacher, La Sierra Charter School

Caitlin Scaife, Teacher, Special Services AcCEL Program

Ana Sweeney, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Special Services

Kathy Woodruff, Instructional Assistant, AcCEL Program

Mary Xavier, Clinical Supervisor, Special Services Behavioral Health Services



Photos above:

~ Vicky Contreras, who received a plaque for 30 years of service, looks on as Superintendent Tim Hire highlights her career and dedication to the CHOICES Program. Employees with 25, 20, 15, and 10 years of service are also pictured above.

Tulare Historical Museum donates award-winning bear display to SCICON



In June, John Pendleton, Tulare educator and Tulare Historical Museum board member, approached Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire about accepting a large exhibit that was in the museum's collection. The museum sought to deaccession the prize-winning exhibit and thought TCOE's SCICON Program may be an appropriate place for it.

The exhibit, which was recently relocated to SCICON, features two black bears and a grizzly bear in a scene depicting the natural rivalry between the two species. The scene also features a stream with salmon. "Tulare County is the site of the last known grizzly in California, which was killed in the 1920s," said Dianne Shew, SCICON director. "The display gives our students a glimpse into the past and the ability to see firsthand the size difference and adaptations of both bear species."

The family of the late Corky Anderson, a prominent Tulare farmer, donated the exhibit to the museum. "We appreciate both the Tulare Historical Museum and the Anderson family for this generous gift," said Hire. "It has become the centerpiece of our natural

history museum and a source of important lessons on animal biology and conservation.”

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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.