

Tony Rodriguez sworn in as trustee for Tulare County Board of Education



Last month, longtime local educator Tony Rodriguez took the oath of office to become trustee for Area 7 of the Tulare County Board of Education. Rodriguez will serve the Tulare area, replacing Pat Hillman, who retired last month.

Rodriguez grew up in the Woodville area, attending Woodville Union School and graduating from Monache High School in Porterville. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics and teaching credential from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and received his master's degree in educational administration from the University of San Francisco.

Rodriguez began his teaching career in San Jose, moving to Watsonville where he taught until 1990. He and his wife decided to move back to the Central Valley so that he could teach at Tulare Union High School. In 1997, Rodriguez became the school's vice principal and then the district's assistant superintendent of curriculum. Mr. Rodriguez was selected as superintendent for the Tulare Joint Union High School District in 2017, retiring in 2021. Rodriguez's wife, Rosario, is also a teacher.

Photo above:

~ Tulare County Board of Education Trustee Tony Rodriguez (right) takes the oath of office from Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. Rodriguez is a new trustee on the board, representing the Tulare area.

Theatre Company to hold six weeks of classes this spring



Beginning in February, TCOE's Theatre Company will hold six weeks of spring classes open to students throughout the county. Classes will be held from February 14 until March 23, at TCOE's Doe Avenue Complex, located at 7000 W. Doe Avenue in Visalia.

Students will be able to choose from **acting classes** taught by Theatre Company director Bethany Rader, **voice classes** by music director Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa, and **dance classes** by choreographer McKenna Friend-Hoffman.

There will be a student limit per class. Once the limit is reached, prospective students will be notified and placed on the waitlist. If a spot opens or more students can be added, prospective students will be added to the class.

Each class discipline costs \$30, but scholarships are available to those in need. Students will only pay for their classes once they have been officially admitted.

For more information about the classes or to sign up, visit tcoe.org/TheatreCo/Catalog/Classes.

Registration closes January 18 for three-day LCAP University



Beginning this month, the Tulare County Office of Education will host a three-session, in-person series designed to support local education agencies (LEAs) in the development of their 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP). The TCOE Leadership Support Services team will guide participants through the processes necessary to develop an LCAP that results in a blueprint for student success and also meets statutory requirements.

The sessions will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on January 18, March 2, and March 29 at the TCOE Administration Building at 6200 S Mooney Boulevard in Visalia. The January 18 session will be on “LCAP Fundamentals and Mid-Year Strategies,” the March 2 session is on “LCAP Sections In Depth and the Importance of Alignment,” and the March 29 session on “Putting it all Together.”

To register for the three-day sessions, visit <https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-228844>.

For more information about the content of the sessions, contact John Alvarez at john.alvarez@tcoe.org or (559) 302-3636. For registration information, contact Maura Sánchez at maura.sanchez@tcoe.org or (559) 302-3642.

For a complete list of Leadership Support Services professional learning opportunities, visit tcoe.org/Leadership/PL.

Center receives grant to expand residency program to include additional districts

The California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center) recently received a \$250,000 grant for its Teacher Residency for Rural Education Program (TRRE). The grant will add additional school district partners – expanding from the current three to a total of six local districts.

TRRE is a partnership with California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), and Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District, Tulare Joint Union High School District, and Visalia Unified School District. TRRE accepts graduate students from its partner districts who are seeking a single-subject credential with a focus in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) or English. Through the residency, participants earn a master's degree in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction, and participate in high-quality professional development in computer science from CSUB. In addition, TRRE residents receive up to \$35,000 as a living stipend while completing the one-year clinical teaching experience alongside a classroom mentor.



TRRE

*TEACHER RESIDENCY FOR
RURAL EDUCATION PROJECT*

Thanks to the new grant, the Center will be able to admit 10 additional residents annually. Beginning this month, the Center aims to work with administration in Woodlake, Porterville, and Dinuba districts to recruit candidates to begin prerequisite courses this spring and summer.

Residents are recruited from a wide variety of backgrounds, including recent college graduates, mid-career professionals, and military retirees.

For more information on the [TRRE Program](#), contact Marvin Lopez, the Center's executive director, at marvin@tcoe.org.

Registration open for annual Literacy Conference



Registration is open for the 17th annual Literacy Conference, scheduled for March 28 at the Fresno Convention Center. The conference is a collaboration between the county offices of education in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare counties, and the California Department of Education and the regional Readership Project.

The full-day conference will feature keynote speakers Dr. April Baker-Bell and Kelly Gallagher, plus numerous breakout sessions on the theme, *Literacy as a Pathway to Liberation*.

Baker-Bell is an author and associate professor of Language, Literacy, and English Education in the Department of English and the Department of African American and African Studies at Michigan State University. She is a national leader in conversations on black language education. Her book, *Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy*, provides ethnographic snapshots of how black students navigate and negotiate their linguistic and racial identities across multiple contexts. Baker-Bell is the 2020 recipient of the Orwell Award from the National Council of Teachers of English.

Considered one of the leading voices in literacy education, Kelly Gallagher is an educator, author, and consultant who works with educators around the world. He has served in leadership positions in several key literacy programs, including the California Reading and Literature Project and the Puente Project, a University of California outreach program that prepares under-represented high school students to transition into universities. In 2005, Gallagher received the Award for Classroom Excellence from the California Association of Teachers of English, the state's highest honor for English teachers.

Register for the Literacy Conference at <https://fresno.k12oms.org/139-228634>.

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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.