

Amanda Richard to join Human Resources as new administrator

On Monday, October 9, Amanda Richard, Ed.D. will join Human Resources as Administrator II. In addition to supporting Tulare County Office of Education employees and those in the county's school districts, Richard will also oversee risk management and employee safety. She replaces Chris Meyer who was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of District Support Services in August.

"We are delighted to welcome Amanda to the HR team," said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "We appreciate the experience she brings to the position as a teacher and an administrator who has served our profession at the district, county, and regional levels."



Richard is a 24-year veteran of education. Her experience includes serving as a high school physical education teacher for 16 years before transitioning into administration at Visalia Unified schools. In 2016, she accepted the interim athletic director position at El Diamante High School. She then served one year as an assistant principal at Ridgeview Middle School, followed by three years as an assistant principal at Golden West High School. She has also served as principal for La Joya Middle School and, most recently, as the Redwood High School principal.

"I am thrilled about the opportunity to join TCOE and look forward to working with the staff and administrative team to ensure a seamless transition," Richard said. "Although I have always felt at home as a teacher and coach, it is in my position as a school administrator where I have been most fulfilled in my life's work."

Tulare Western High School students create visuals from CHOICES TUPE lessons

Recent lessons from the CHOICES Programs' Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE) has inspired Tulare Western High School freshmen to create visual representations of what they learned. According to the California Department of Education, the purpose of the TUPE program is to reduce youth tobacco use by helping young people make healthful tobacco-related decisions.

Over the course of seven lessons, CHOICES Specialist Jose Aispuro taught Tulare Western freshmen the dangers of vaping and smoking tobacco and cannabis. Students also learned how harmful chemicals such as nicotine can hijack their brain chemistry and harm their bodies long-term, as well as other impacts that toxic chemicals can have on their lives and their environment.

In teacher Joseph Rivera's freshman studies class, students took it upon themselves to create a visual representation of how they could encourage people to avoid smoking and not risk falling into addiction.

"These students used their imaginations to translate what they learned during these lessons into creating posters to share facts and warn the public about the dangers of nicotine and cannabis," said Aispuro. "Their signs show unique illustrations that demonstrate the risks of where smoking can lead a teenager's life. Their incredible graphics and catchy phrases made me proud of our work as part of the CHOICES Programs. It was great to see these students engage and demonstrate their unique talents to exhibit their understanding of these topics."

The Tulare County Office of Education CHOICES Programs work to educate and support students and the community through various prevention, intervention, and educational approaches and opportunities. For more information on the CHOICES Programs, visit tcoe.org/CHOICES.



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