
Gilbert Hernandez selected as new director of Information Systems

Gilbert Hernandez, the Information Systems application manager, has been promoted to director of the program. Hernandez, who has served the department in various roles since 1996, will replace Bruce Storer, who plans to retire next month.



Hernandez has been the software application manager and senior software developer for TCOE's financial business system. He has been responsible for coordinating with district, county, state, federal, banking institutions, and third-party financial system staff in the exchange and reporting of data.

Earlier in his career, he served as an adjunct faculty member of Information Systems at Porterville College, where he taught all advanced software programming courses and collaborated with the dean of Information Systems in the development of course curriculum. A graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Hernandez is the cofounder and director of coaching for the South Valley Chivas Academy – a youth soccer organization.

Photo above:

Gilbert Hernandez (r) has been promoted to director of Information Systems. Hernandez has served the department since 1996. He will replace Bruce Storer (l), who plans to retire in December.

TCOE's ActVnet emergency response system receives technology award

Last month, the California County Superintendents announced the winners of their 2023 Annual Awards. The annual award winners are selected by an awards committee comprised of county superintendents from throughout the state.

Among the awards given were the Leadership Awards. Each year, the California County Superintendents offer annual awards that align with those given by the national Association of Service Agencies (AESAs). The California County Superintendents awards that align with AESAs are for Technological Innovation, Professional Publication, Legislative Leadership, and Executive Leadership.



This year, the Technological Innovation Award went to the Tulare County Office of Education for its ActVnet emergency response system. Developed with input from local law enforcement agencies and other first responders, ActVnet is a system that provides dispatchers access to important school information. In the system, dispatchers can see a school's site and floor plans, drone photography and classroom images, personnel information, plus access the school's camera system – if installed – to direct responders to the scene of the emergency. ActVnet has been installed in dozens of Tulare County schools with interest from others throughout the state.

For more information, visit about.actvnet.org.

Photo above:

Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire (c) is pictured receiving the 2023 Technology Innovation Award for the ActVnet program from the California County Superintendents. He is pictured with Frank Silveira (l) and Daniel Cordeniz (r).

California Center on Teaching Careers to hold virtual PK-12 Educational Employment Fair November 16



The California Center on Teaching Careers, housed in the Tulare County Office of Education, is hosting a virtual statewide PK-12 Educational Employment Fair on November 16 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

This event is for classified and certificated staff (teaching and non-teaching positions) interested in joining the education workforce. Multiple positions will be offered for teachers, substitute teachers, administration, classified positions, paraprofessionals, nurses, and more.

Agencies seeking classified and certificated staff can register from now until November 10. For those seeking employment, candidate registration is open now and closes November 16. Registration for agencies and candidates is free and can be found at thecentervirtualevents-nov2023.vfairs.com/.

For questions about the fair or registration, contact Kindra Davis at kindra.davis@tcoe.org or Edgar Alvarez at edgar.alvarez@tcoe.org.

For any other questions regarding The Center, contact Marvin Lopez at marvinl@tcoe.org.

Visalia students recognized for Pursuing Victory with Honor

In partnership with the Downtown Visalia Kiwanis, TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! Program celebrated this fall's Pursuing Victory with Honor (PVWH) student-athletes at a lunch on Tuesday. The Downtown



Visalia Kiwanis recognizes student-athletes, nominated by their coaches, each season for their sportsmanship. The awards included a certificate, pin, patch, and lawn sign that read "An Athlete of Character Lives Here." Below is a list of the Pursuing Victory with Honor award winners along comments from their coaches.

Central Valley Christian High School

Ava Mihalcin – girls cross country: Ava Mihalcin is an ideal recipient of this award for her excellent character and discipline as a student-athlete. She has been a key leader for our team. As the lone senior, she has brought much needed maturity and leadership to the team. She is trustworthy to do the right thing when no one is looking and is respectful to everyone she interacts with. She sets an example for her teammates in punctuality, communication, and grit.

Justin Canaday – boys cross country: Justin Canaday is an ideal recipient of this award due to his outstanding character and excellence as a student-athlete. He has been a key member in developing us into the deepest team in our school's history. He is also one of CVC cross country's fastest distance runners ever. He is someone committed to getting the best out of himself and those around him. He is a person of high character and a phenomenal leader.

El Diamante High School

Elisabeth Beck – girls tennis: Elisabeth Beck is trustworthy, honest, and courageous. Elisabeth always demonstrates sportsmanship and integrity on the tennis court. In a

close preseason match, she corrected her doubles partner on a line call and a rule interpretation during critical points in the match. Elisabeth and her partner went on to win the match; she ensured the match was completed fairly. Elisabeth relentlessly pursues victory with honor.

Devin Ibarra – boys cross country: Devin is the definition of dedication. He puts time in before school starts making sure to hit his mileage every day. He is always looking for the best competition. He doesn't just want to win the race, he wants to win against the best teams and strongest runners. He is a strong, silent type who expects hard work from everyone around him. Devin has been an inspiration to the other boys on our team.

Golden West High School

Alize San Juan – girls cross country: Alize was chosen as captain but broke her wrist early in the season. Alize has come to practice every possible day and with the help of our other captains led warmups and helped with practice. Alize has demonstrated her leadership skills and will be coming back to practice after six weeks of not running. Alize understands the challenge and is willing to sacrifice to help her teammates, knowing that she needs patience and hard work to get back in shape.

Nolan Garland – boys water polo: When we first met, he was rehabilitating from a shoulder injury yet willing to play goaltender having never before been trained. "Okay Coach, I'll do my best." As I installed a new help-side defense, Nolan delved to understand and communicate with his teammates, "We can get this Coach." When faced with the challenge of playing teams ranked above us, "We can win this." Few players are the causative link between individual talent and team success: Nolan Garland somehow bridges that chasm.

Mt. Whitney High School

Areli Tobon – girls tennis: Areli Tobon plays the No. 1 singles position. Areli was chosen as a team captain by her coaches and teammates because of her fairness in the way she treats both teammates and opponents. Areli is a caring teammate. She encourages and cheers for her team members while they are playing their matches. She is very responsible and is a great role model. Areli has the respect of coaches and opponents around the valley for her sportsmanship and fair play.

Noah Sanchez – boys cross country: Noah Sanchez exemplifies the nature of this award. He is so considerate to his teammates and treats everyone he meets with kindness and respect. He brings a positive attitude to practice every day and never complains. He truly loves the sport of running and is committed to doing his best every day. He is helpful and honest, and sets a great example to the rest of the team of what makes a student-athlete of character!

Redwood High School

Ashlyn Guenter – volleyball: Ashlyn Guenter is a great young lady. She is responsible, respectful, and a great leader. Her teammates trusted in her loyalty enough to vote her in as a captain. She genuinely cares about the people around her and is an incredibly humble individual. Ashlyn has been with us for four years and has not wavered from any of the CHARACTER COUNTS! attributes during that time. She is destined to do great things in life. We will miss her.

Magnus Burgess – boys water polo: Magnus works harder than most of his peers in the classroom and in the pool. His efforts in the pool has Division I college programs looking at him. On campus, he has recently started the “Breakfast Club” – a group whose mission is to find students who feel they don’t “fit in” and make them part of their friendship circle. Magnus has a big heart. He makes his family, teachers, and coaches very proud.

Coaches’ comments edited for brevity.

Around the County

Porterville Military Academy hosts annual competition on behalf of California Cadet Corps



On Saturday, Porterville Military Academy (PMA) hosted the 2023 Xtreme Team Challenge (XTC) on behalf of the California Cadet Corps. Over 380 students from 24 California schools participated in the challenge, including 22 middle and high school cadets from La Sierra Military Academy.

XTC provided a series of physical and academic challenges that gave cadets a framework to use their team-building skills and leadership abilities to achieve success in competition with other teams. The venue provided a safe, fun, challenging, and exciting opportunity for cadets to meet and interact with other cadets from throughout the state.



Photos above:

Middle and high school students from La Sierra Military Academy (bottom) pose at the recent California Cadet Corps X-Treme Challenge held at Porterville Military Academy (top).

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