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## UPHS student immerses herself in architectural studies at COS Tulare; UPHS plans new location midway between Visalia and Tulare



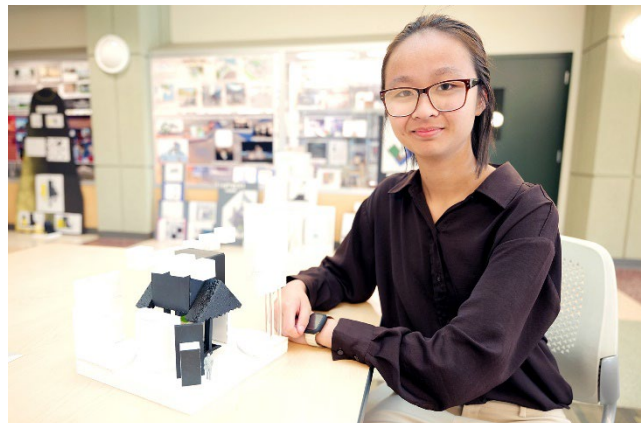
Tieu-Tam Bui's journey toward a career in architecture began in fourth grade. While visiting her father's office, where he worked for a home developer, she passed the office of local architect. What she saw in that office stopped her in her tracks. There in the architect's office she recalls seeing a drafting table and a rendering of a building project done in watercolors. "I remember standing there and staring for minutes," said the University Preparatory High School (UPHS) senior. "I was really inspired by that and started asking my dad (questions) because I didn't know what the profession of architecture was."

Today the young woman has taken that inspiration and turned it into further education and work experience at the local firm of DKJ Architects. To further her education in architecture, Tieu-Tam is enrolled in College of the Sequoias (COS) courses, which are uniquely available at the COS Tulare campus. All UPHS students are expected to complete a minimum of 20 COS units to graduate.

Growing up, Tieu-Tam's interest in architecture remained constant in her mind. While she enjoyed science and math, she also enjoyed art, graphic design, and photography. "Architecture was the greatest field I knew that is a combination of art and science," she said.

Following her love for science, she discovered UPHS, located on the COS Visalia campus, through a friend who told her that the school had an official robotics team – an activity that the two of them had enjoyed in middle school. After doing research on the school, she applied. "I'm a first-generation college student," she said. "When I heard that I could take college classes for free, I decided no matter what, that had to take precedent. And now after being here for four years in progress, I feel like that was definitely the right decision." Tieu-Tam also noted that many of her peers also wanted to attend a small school where they could get extra support.

While at UPHS, Tieu-Tam has taken COS courses in freehand drawing, and Architectural History I and II. She is currently taking Architectural Design I and plans to take Architectural Design II in the spring. Next year, she plans to attend a university with an architectural program so that she can work toward becoming a licensed architect.



About her internship, she said, "DKJ Architects works a lot with schools and seeing how firms like this can give back to a community in that way is very meaningful. I also appreciate that architects help schools through the decision-making process in creating environments where kids are going to learn and establish their foundations."

While Tieu-Tam has made the trek from UPHS to Tulare, future generations of students will have easier access to COS Tulare courses. In August 2027, the school will open on a new campus at 11535 Avenue 264 in Visalia – the same site as the Planetarium & Science Center. The Mooney Boulevard site was chosen because it is nearly midway between both COS' Visalia and Tulare campuses.

"We look forward to this exciting opportunity to relocate and expand this special school," said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. "We appreciate those who helped to create UPHS – founding principal John Kelly, former Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak, the UPHS faculty and staff, and the UPHS Parent

Support Organization. We also appreciate the tremendous support of COS President/Superintendent Dr. Brent Calvin and his staff and faculty for providing us a home and special opportunities for students!”

University Preparatory High School (UPHS) has thrived on the COS Visalia campus. Now as the college and high school continue to grow, UPHS will transition to its own campus, offering students the choice of taking COS classes in Visalia, Tulare, or both.

University Preparatory High School is now in its 15th year. Founded in 2009, the school was conceived as a four-year public high school where students – particularly those who may be the first in their family to attend college – could get the guidance and encouragement to be successful in college. All were welcome to attend and work hard at both high school and college classes with the support of caring faculty and staff.

UPHS’ success in preparing students for college and career earned it one of the highest college-going rates in Tulare County and the distinction of twice being named a California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education.

This month, UPHS begins recruiting for incoming classes of students, including the Class of 2027-28, the first class to graduate from the new campus. For enrollment information or the dates of upcoming information nights – including presentations on November 9, December 7, and December 14 – please visit [www.tcoe.org/UPHS](http://www.tcoe.org/UPHS).

Photos above:

(top) UPHS senior Tieu-Tam Bui is pictured at her internship at DKJ Architects.

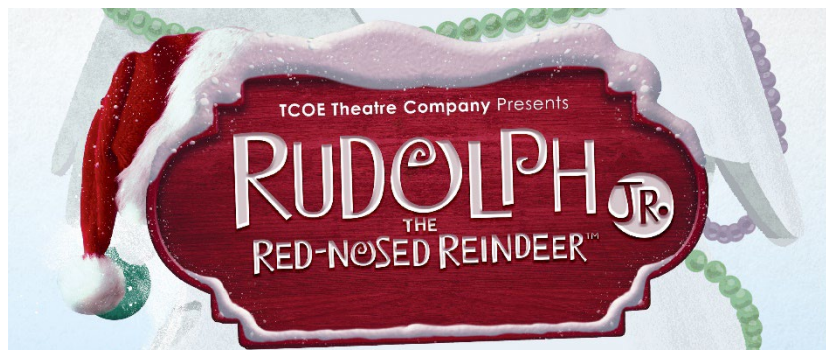
(lower) Tieu-Tam poses with a model she created for her Architectural Design I class at College of the Sequoias.

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## **Tickets on sale now for Theatre Company’s fall production of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR.**

Tickets are now available online for the Theatre Company’s production of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR.*!

The holiday classic soars off the screen in this adaptation of the beloved television special. Filled with holiday hits like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *A Holly Jolly*



*Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR.* features all of your favorite characters including Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and, of course, Rudolph. It's an adventure that teaches what makes you different can be what makes you special.

Because of his shiny nose, Rudolph doesn't feel like he belongs in Christmastown and sets off to find a place that accepts him. Along his journey, he encounters fellow misfits, only to realize that home is where he has belonged the whole time. When a storm threatens to keep Santa's sleigh from taking flight, it's up to Rudolph to save Christmas!

This production stars Tulare County students in grades 1-12 and features *A Glee-ful Christmas Preshow* filled with holiday songs in the style of the hit television series, *GLEE*.

*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR.* will be performed five times at the Rotary Theatre in Visalia. Evening shows will be offered November 15, 16, 17 and 18 – beginning with a preshow at 7:00 p.m. A matinee show will be held Saturday, November 18 – beginning with a preshow at 2:00 p.m.

All ticket sales will be conducted online and shows are expected to sell out. Tickets are \$17.00 for general admission and \$10.00 for Tulare County students (grades 1-12) with a valid ID. To purchase tickets, visit [tcoe.org/TheatreCo/Tickets](http://tcoe.org/TheatreCo/Tickets).

## PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

**Sam** – Genevieve Brown, 11th grade, Maesar Academy

**Santa Claus** – Declan Hilscher, 11th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center

**Mrs. Claus** – Elyse Johnson, 9th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center

**Donner** – Leo Paez, 10th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center

**Mrs. Donner** – Story Smith, 8th grade, St Paul's School

**Young Rudolph** – Isabella Adams, 4th grade, Liberty Elementary School

**Rudolph** – Carter Sullivan, 6th grade, St Paul's School

**Boss Elf** – Lincoln Graves, 10th grade, University Preparatory High School

**Hermey** – Joseph Williams, 6th grade, Manuel F. Hernandez Elementary School

**Fireball** – Ella Marshall, 6th grade, Shannon Ranch Elementary School

**Clarice** – Ella Chandler, 8th grade, Sundale Union School

**Coach Comet** – Dumisani Mason, 10th grade, University Preparatory High School

**Clarice's Father** – Jamen Radmacher, 8th grade, Homeschool

**Yukon Cornelius** – Dean Johnson, 11th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center

**Elf 1** – Eleanor Ray, 6th grade, Oak Grove Elementary School

**Elf 2** – Josie Bowers, 7th grade, Ridgeview Middle School

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## Around the County

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### Tulare FFA Agricultural Issues Forum takes third, Dinuba FFA places sixth at nationals



The Tulare FFA Agricultural Issues Forum team placed third at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, November 3. Making up the team was Avery Starr, Jillian Garcia, Olivia Machado, and Gianna Fernandes from Tulare Western High School, and Megan Farrenkopf from Mission Oak High School. In May, the Ag Issues team also won the state competition.

On placing at nationals, Tulare FFA said, “We are extremely proud of our team and the hard work our students put into this competition. The time, dedication, and hard work these young ladies put into this presentation is outstanding.”



Also taking first at state and placing at the national competition was Dinuba High School FFA who placed sixth in Nursery/Landscape. The team consisted of Lauryn Sotelo, Elizabeth Quintero-Rubio, Alonso Soto-Guzman, and Mariah Enriquez.

Both Tulare FFA and Dinuba FFA were recognized as Gold Emblem Teams, and all four of Dinuba's Nursery/Landscape team were Gold Emblem Individuals.

For complete results from the National FFA convention, visit <https://www.ffa.org/96th-convention-event-results>.

Photos above:

*Tulare FFA (top) and Dinuba FFA (bottom) placed at the National FFA Convention last week in Indianapolis, Indiana. Tulare's Agricultural Issues Forum team placed third, while Dinuba's Nursery/Landscape team placed sixth.*

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