

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

March 22, 2023

2023-24 Tulare County Farm Bureau Student Art Calendar unveiled



Emma Souza, a senior at Redwood High School, was honored yesterday for the artwork she created for the annual Tulare County Farm Bureau Student Art Calendar. Souza's piece, depicting mother animals and their offspring, was selected for the cover of the calendar. Souza created the image of animal families to relate to the calendar's theme: "Tulare County Agriculture: Generations of Growing Goodness."

"I love animals, so why not create a piece with generations representing the next steps in life," Souza said. She was quick to credit her grandmother for her talent, saying "My grandmother was a very good artist and I think she blessed me with the gift of art." Souza, who will attend College of the Sequoias next year, plans to transfer to a four-year art school and continue her studies in art and fashion design.

Tricia Stever Blattler, executive director for the Tulare County Farm Bureau, introduced Souza and the other winners featured in the calendar at a meeting of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on March 21. Blattler reported to the board that this year the Farm Bureau received over 1,500 works of art for its annual competition – a competition which began as a bumper sticker contest in 1997 before expanding to a calendar.

“The calendar is a great educational tool that incorporates information about agriculture in Tulare County, as well as nutrition and science facts related to numerous commodities,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools.



The annual calendar presentation coincides with National Agriculture Month (March) and serves as a colorful reminder of the prominence of Tulare County agriculture in California, the nation, and the world.

Alex Rogers from the Nutrition Education Obesity Prevention (NEOP) program, compiled the monthly agriculture and nutrition facts for various Tulare County crops and products. Additional student artwork is also featured each month.

The calendar will be distributed to Tulare County teachers in April.

Featured artwork includes:

Front Cover - Emma Souza, Grade 12, Redwood High School, Visalia

Back Cover - Jasmin Rivas, Grade 12, Redwood High School, Visalia

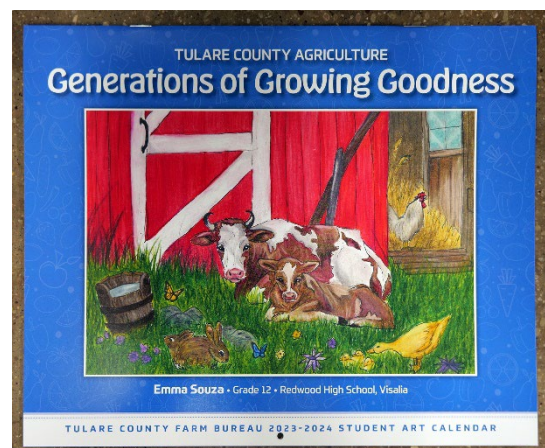
April - Analee Munoz Luna, Grade 12, Orosi High School, Orosi

May - Bryce Moore, Grade 6, St. Paul's School, Visalia

June - Maliah Munoz, Grade 8, St. Aloysius School, Tulare

July - Lily Iverson, Grade 8, St. Paul's School, Visalia

August - Clara Ferreira, Grade 5, St. Paul's School, Visalia



September - Madison Daniska, Grade 3, Three Rivers Union School, Three Rivers

October - Polett Barba, Grade 8, St. Aloysius School, Tulare

November - Zoe Alvarado, Grade 5, Sundale Union School, Tulare

December - Sara Satko, Grade 8, Heartland Charter School, Porterville

January - Denise Alvarado, Grade 9, Mission Oak High School, Tulare

February - Abigail Mueller, Grade 8, Wilson Middle School, Exeter

March - Maya Arciga, Grade 11, Orosi High School, Orosi

Photos above:

~ Students who created the artwork for the covers and each month of the calendar pose outside the Tulare County Board of Supervisors with Tricia Stever Blattler, executive director of the Tulare County Farm Bureau, (left) and Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools (right).

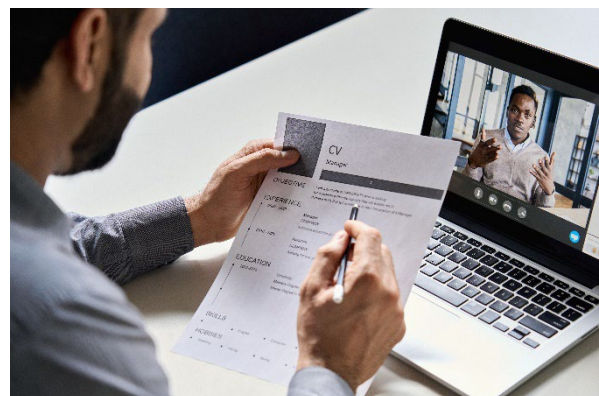
~ Emma Souza, whose artwork was selected for the cover of the 2023-24 Farm Bureau Student Art Calendar, poses with Amy Shuklian, Supervisor District 3 for the Tulare County Board of Supervisors

~ Emma Souza's artwork for the calendar, entitled Tulare County Agriculture: Generations of Growing Goodness, depicts generations of farm animals.

California Center on Teaching Careers co-hosting hybrid job fair Saturday in Bakersfield

There is still time for candidates to apply for this Saturday's hybrid job fair co-hosted by the California Center on Teaching Careers (the Center) and Kern County Superintendent of Schools.

The PK-12 Educational Employment Fair will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. online and at Mechanics Bank Convention Center located at 1001 Truxtun Ave. in Bakersfield. Candidates can register for the job fair at <https://thecentervirtualevents-hybcencal23.vfairs.com>. This fair will feature educational agencies based in Central California.



Hybrid fairs connect education credential holders, substitutes, paraprofessionals, classified staff, administrators, interns, counselors, and other school personnel with school districts, county offices of education, and universities. For regional candidates, it connects them face-to-face with educational representatives.

According to an article in [The Sacramento Bee](#), California has around 20,000 vacant teaching positions. The Center is a statewide agency that works to address the need for teachers. Their statewide virtual and hybrid fairs are just one of the ways they aim to tackle the shortage.

A list of the Center's upcoming PK-12 Educational Employment Fairs can be found at <https://thecentervirtualevents.vfairs.com>. Following Saturday's event, the next hybrid event will be on April 15 for San Bernardino City Unified School District. Candidate and agency registration for the San Bernardino fair is available at <https://thecentervirtualevents-sbcusd23.vfairs.com>.

For questions about this Saturday's fair or registration, contact Jonathan Mendoza at jonathan.mendoza@tcoe.org or Jose Covarrubias at jose.covarrubias@tcoe.org.

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

University Preparatory High School robotics team qualifies for FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas



Over the weekend of March 11-12, the University Preparatory High School (UPHS) robotics team, known as Arborbotics, won the Central Valley Regional Competition in Fresno to qualify for the *FIRST* World Robotics Competition in Houston, Texas next month.

Since the team was founded in 2017, this was the first time Arborbotics captured the Central Valley championship. This year, the competition attracted 38 teams from counties throughout the state, plus international teams from Mexico and Taiwan. Arborbotics is the only *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team in Tulare County.

Arborbotics is a student-led program that focuses on providing students real-world situations and 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. These values are taught through the experience of building a robot from start to finish, and through cooperation with other schools at the FRC event. Many of the robot's parts were designed and 3D printed by UPHS students.

More than winning, the UPHS robotics club is also about giving back. Throughout the year, the team does outreach projects and community service around the county, emphasizing the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. During the off-season, the team also holds weekly programs at Washington Elementary School and Linwood Elementary School, both in Visalia.

Arborbotics team members include: Tieu Tam Bui, Addie Reardon, Rylee Correa, Cody Tobin, Liam Curtiss, Robert Marquez, Marcus Anderson, Cadence Mason, Garret Messchaert, Andrew Frankovic, Jacob Nuckols, Seth Brewer, Jared Ramirez, and Donovan Clark. The team is mentored by UPHS mathematics teacher Josh Curtiss and parent Ryan Tobin.

For more information on the team and their journey to the world championship, visit <https://team6657.weebly.com>.

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Alex Rogers, Jonathan Mendoza, Helen Millorn-Feller, Josh Curtiss

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