

Annual Pursuing Victory with Honor Scholarship awarded to four Tulare County scholar athletes

The CHARACTER COUNTS! program is pleased to announce the names of the four Tulare County scholar athletes chosen to receive the annual Pursuing Victory with Honor (PVWH) Scholarships. The scholarship program, now in its 11th year, awards four Tulare County seniors \$500 each for their academic achievements and for their exemplary character on and off the field.

Brooke Doherty

Brooke Doherty graduated from Mission Oak High School (Tulare) and will attend Pepperdine University in the fall. Doherty, who played soccer and ran track, wants to earn her bachelor's in English language and literature, and return to the education field to teach high school English. Eventually, she will also earn her master's in education and work in education administration.

"All of my teachers have had a meaningful impact on my life," Doherty said. "They not only support me from an academic standpoint, but they also play a huge role in developing my character. I attribute so much of my success to them. Their love and support has never gone unnoticed."

In addition to her teachers, Doherty considers her father her role model. "My dad has been my role model throughout my entire life," she said. "His tireless work ethic and his passion for his work and family have inspired me to work as hard as I do, and to take pride in who I am."



For fun, Doherty enjoys spending time with her family and traveling, as well as reading a good book and being with her friends. Her favorite food is pasta, while romance and comedies are her favorite types of movies.

Angel Montes

Angel Montes is a graduate of Dinuba High School where he played basketball and competed in track and field. In the fall, Montes will attend California State University, Fresno. He plans to become an orthodontist to support the same community that pushed him and his peers throughout high school.

In his free time, Montes likes to go to the gym, play basketball, or hang out with his friends. He always completes all his duties before proceeding to do the things that he enjoys. He loves to laugh, so he is always spending time with the people closest to him.



“The people that impact my life the most are my immediate family members, my closest friends and some of my teachers,” Montes said. “All of them teach me things and put me on the right path if I get off-road. They support me throughout anything, and I wouldn’t be the person I am without them.”

One of those impactful people is his dad, who Montes calls his role model. “He has worked so hard to reach where he is today, and I will carry the torch and reach for the clouds,” Montes said.

When it comes to food, Montes enjoys chicken alfredo or homemade baked macaroni and cheese. However, with movies, Montes likes a little bit of everything – including action, horror, and suspense.

Sofia Perez

El Diamante High School (Visalia) graduate, Sofia Perez, is bound for the University of California, Berkeley this fall. The former Miners basketball and volleyball player will attend UC Berkeley and pursue her career goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

Impacting her throughout life were Perez's parents. She said, "My parents had the biggest impact on my life because they have had to overcome so much throughout their lives and did it all while being kind and supportive of the people around them. I try to bring this into my life because of their example and aim to always be welcoming to whoever I meet."



On her grandparents, Perez said, "My role models are my grandparents because, through their sacrifices and determination, they were able to provide my family with a better life in a new country!"

Perez loves her grandmother's salsa and enjoys watching romantic comedies when she's not reading or hanging out with friends in her free time.

Victoria Zisumbo

Victoria Zisumbo played volleyball and swam for Woodlake High School. Next fall, she will attend the University of California, San Diego, where she will major in chemistry on her way to becoming a radiologist.

Her club volleyball coach and mentor, Tori Johnson, significantly impacted her life in many ways. Zisumbo said, "To this day, I still refer to when she taught me how to have an open mindset. This mindset allows me to take in criticism and new information, as well as letting me be open to new experiences. Coach Johnson reminds me to have this trait by being a living example and showing others the benefits of this mindset. With this, I have become a coachable athlete and a great student!"



Vinícius Jr., a Brazilian soccer player, is Zisumbo's role model because, despite the opposition he faces, he never lets that crush his passion for the game. "He continues to remember his love for the sport and does not let others break that bond," Zisumbo said. "I try to live like him by not allowing negative people or moments to crush my passion!"

In her free time, Zisumbo likes to hang out with friends and family, or serve the community through various events. And if she's in front of a TV or movie screen, she loves to watch romantic comedies and action movies.

Planetarium to offer summer shows beginning this week

This month, the Planetarium will offer three public shows, including one matinee and one new program. The summer shows kick off this Friday, June 9 with an 11:30 a.m. matinee of *Perfect Little Planet*, followed by a 5:00 p.m. showing of *CAPCOM GO! - The Apollo Story*.

CAPCOM GO! was created a few years ago to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo program. The immersive, historical documentary showcases the achievements of the Apollo program and what it took to put the first human on the Moon. It

introduces a new generation to the immense challenges scientists and engineers overcame, inspiring viewers to become the explorers, designers, engineers, thinkers, and dreamers of the future.

On June 23, the Planetarium will premiere *We Are Stars*, a new program that seeks to answer some of the biggest questions of all time. What are we made of? Where did it all come from? Through *We Are Stars*, audiences will explore the secrets of our cosmic chemistry, our explosive origin, and connect life on Earth to the Big Bang and evolution of the Universe. This family-friendly film is full of fun, adventure, and enlightenment, and will be shown at 5:00 p.m.

Conan Palmer, the Planetarium's coordinator, reports that *We Are Stars* is one of several new shows being added for the new school year.

For show information, trailers, and to purchase tickets, please visit tcoe.org/planetarium. To check the status of a show or for assistance with purchasing tickets, please call (559) 733-6433 or email planetarium@tcoe.org.



Final TCOE 2022-23 graduations held



Last week, four young people graduated from TCOE's Court/Community School Program — two from high school and two from middle school. Three were able to attend a ceremony, joined by family members, the program's staff and administrators, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire, and members of the Tulare County Board of Education.

Since 2016, the Court/Community School Program has used online coursework that enables students to complete needed classes at a pace that meets their learning style and aids in credit recovery.

Yesterday, Special Services' AcCEL Program held its final graduation ceremony for students in Tulare from the Maple Learning Complex and the three Community Based Instruction Classrooms.

In total, six students received their certificates of completion with many of them deciding to enter adult programs.



More pictures are available from all graduation ceremonies on the Tulare County Office of Education's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

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