

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

April 9, 2002

Press Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

La Sierra High School Receives EAST Grant

Meeting April 11, 10:45 a.m. • La Sierra Charter High School • 1735 E. Houston Ave., Visalia

La Sierra High School, a charter school operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, was recently awarded a \$230,000 grant to create an EAST lab on campus. The EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technology) Initiative is the result of a dynamic collaboration between business and education. EAST is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to develop high-end technology skills. This is accomplished through alliances among education, business and government.

"We are pleased to bring these opportunities to our La Sierra students," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "This grant will provide extraordinary technology training for students accepted to the program. The ultimate goal of the EAST Initiative is to provide students with the opportunities and the tools that can help them to develop into productive, contributing citizens."

Four La Sierra staff members, including principal Dan Barajas, attended the National EAST conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in February of this year. La Sierra will offer an EAST class starting in the fall of 2002. The program is structured so that competition to enroll in the class is competitive and a privilege. All students have the opportunity to apply for entry into the class and students of all ethnic backgrounds, grade levels and GPAs will be considered. Equity is a large consideration in the EAST philosophy and La Sierra

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Page 2

Principal, Counselor and Facilitator will work together to ensure equal access to a broad range of students.

Enrollment is limited to 14 students for the first year. La Sierra students will install and network the EAST lab this summer.

La Sierra is the only school in Tulare County that has been awarded an EAST grant. The school will host an EAST class from Yosemite High School in Coursegold Thursday, April 11 at 10:45 a.m. Yosemite students will discuss their EAST projects with La Sierra students.

For more information, contact Bruce Adams at 733-6963.

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