

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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For Immediate Release

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## Tulare County Office of Education announces: **CHARACTER COUNTS! in Tulare County**

The Tulare County Office of Education and County Superintendent of Schools, Jim Vidak, are proud sponsors of the highly successful CHARACTER COUNTS! program here in Tulare County. A nationwide initiative of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, CHARACTER COUNTS! is based on the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

The Six Pillars of Character transcend cultural, socioeconomic and religious differences we might have. These values, along with principled behaviors which give them life through our thoughts and deeds, provide the common ground upon which character will be measured. Quite simply, the Six Pillars of Character are for all of us.

Since its introduction in Tulare County Schools in January of 1994, CHARACTER COUNTS! has literally become a part of the moral landscape of Tulare County. Murals can be viewed on the walls of Kaweah Delta Hospital, Burton and Alta Vista Elementary Schools in Porterville, Houston Elementary School in Visalia, Goshen Elementary School, in Mooney Grove Park, Pixley Elementary School, Golden Valley Elementary School in Orosi, Dinuba High School, and Kaweah Continuation High

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School in Exeter. The Six Pillars themselves can be seen in the courtyard of Cherry Avenue Middle School in Tulare. Pillar Square in Mooney Grove Park, the country's largest single permanent monument to CHARACTER COUNTS!, has served as the venue for numerous events including over 40 weddings.

To learn more about CHARACTER COUNTS!, stop by the Tulare County Office of Education CHARACTER COUNTS! booth during Kids' Festival.

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