

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:

GIANT TECH PREP EXPO 2003

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Place of Event: College of the Sequoias (COS) Campus

Time of Event: Competitions from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Awards Ceremony at 12:45 p.m.

The Kings and Tulare County Office of Educations' School-to-Career programs are collaborating to host the seventh annual Giant Tech Prep EXPO at the College of the Sequoias. More than 800 high school students will compete in 32 academic and trade competitions. EXPO competitions provide students with an opportunity to gain recognition for their skills at the high school level. Competitions also promote student participation in vocational educational programs within the community.

The main focus of EXPO is to expose middle and high school students to the college experience and educate them about the kinds of programs and services offered by local educational institutions. COS students and staff will give tours and provide information about COS opportunities.

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Middle school students will be provided with interactive career pathway information and will have special programming to include campus tours given by COS students. More than 200 students are expected participate. Programming will conclude with awards and recognition in the COS Quad area.

Sponsors for the event include: Tulare County Office of Education, COS Tech Prep Consortium, Kings County Office of Education, Kings County SchoolWork Program, Kings County ROP, Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education ROP (TCOVE), Tulare County School-to-Career, Visalia Unified School District, and West Hills College Tech Prep Consortium.

“The Giant Tech Prep EXPO is a great event for getting middle and high school students involved in career-related activities,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “It’s a particularly valuable experience for middle school students as they begin to think about their futures beyond high school.”

"This annual event gets students excited about College of the Sequoia's and the many opportunities that exist," says Kris Costa, COS Tech Prep coordinator. "Our student's really look forward to hosting local schools for a day," says Costa.

GIANT TECH PREP EXPO SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 – 11:30	Competitions – length of competitions will vary Middle School tours
10:45 – 1:00	Demonstrations, Activity and Campus Food Booths
12:45 pm	Awards Ceremony
2:00 pm	Conclusion

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More information on Giant Tech Prep EXPO is available from its website at www.giantexpo.org or by visiting Tulare County Office of Education website at www.tcoe.org.

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