

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

October 21, 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact: Pamela Kunze
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606
cell: 559/901-3445

**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:
Collaborative Leadership Institute Graduation
Friday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.; Education Center, 2637 West Burrel Ave, Visalia**

The Tulare County Office of Education is pleased to announce the graduation of the Collaborative Leadership Institute's (CLI) first class of emerging leaders from throughout the children's services field.

Founded in 2000, and funded by First Five of Tulare County, CLI is a joint project of the Tulare County Office of Education and First Five of Tulare County. The Institute's mission is to ensure the continuing vitality of the community of children's service providers in Tulare County by identifying and developing emerging leaders, and motivating them to work together. CLI's primary goals are to improve coordination and collaboration, provide succession planning, and to advance programs that impact young children in Tulare County.

The 18 CLI graduates represent 14 youth serving agencies. Through a vast array of community-based leadership projects, the graduates have demonstrated the competencies, skills and knowledge to work together to fill essential leadership positions that serve children and their families.

"It's a known fact that progressive and successful communities are often those where leadership capacity is developed, maintained and empowered," says Tulare County Superintendent Schools Jim Vidak. "Ultimately, the collaborative skills and networks the graduates have developed

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

over the course of their two years with CLI will help each to be more effective in providing necessary services to the children and families of Tulare County,” Vidak continues.

Graduation services will be held Friday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m, in the Tulare County Office of Education’s Education Center at 2637 West Burrel Avenue in Visalia. Prior to the commencement ceremony will be a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by welcoming remarks at 6:00 p.m.

The following individuals will be recognized as the members of the first graduating class of the Collaborative Leadership Institute:

Ralph Alvarez, Tulare County Office of Education Child Care Division
Melissa Bachtelle, Tulare County Office of Education Child Care Division
Irene Barba, Tulare County Office of Education, Migrant Education
Nanci Carter, Burton School, Porterville Unified School District
Linda Del Rio, Family Services of Tulare County
Andrew Flores, Kaweah Delta Health Care District-Lifestyle Center
Anthony Foster, Kaweah Delta Health Care District-Lifestyle Center
Pamela Gruber, Central Valley Regional Center
Debi Hill, Turning Point of Central California
Sharon Kamberg, Burton School, Porterville Unified School District
Cheryl Lennon-Armas, Tulare Youth Services Bureau, Inc.
Rachel Margolis, Synchrony of Visalia
Trina Rodriguez, Turning Point of Central California
Martha Serrato, Pixley Union School District
Geraldine Smith, Teviston Betterment Association
Cheri Taylor, Turning Point of Central California
Blair Vedenoff, Greenhouse Montessori School
Beth Wilshire, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Tulare County

For information about the Tulare County Office of education and its programs, visit our website at www.tcoe.org, or call the Public Information Office at 559-733-6606. To learn more about the Collaborative Leadership Institute, contact Barry Sommer, director, at 559-738-0644.

-TCOE-

Rel. 28/03