

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

February 2, 2004

For Immediate Release

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

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Academic Decathlon 2004

**Friday, February 6, 2004 · Tulare County Office of
Education Doe Complex**

Saturday, February 7, 2004 · Porterville College

Tulare County Office of Education will once again host the Academic Decathlon, a ten-event, scholastic competition for teams of high school students. The event will take place Friday and Saturday, February 6-7, 2004.

This year, ten teams of Tulare County's best and brightest students from nine area high schools will compete. Schools fielding teams are: Dinuba High School, Exeter High School, Farmersville High School, Granite Hills High School (Porterville), Lindsay High School, Orosi High School, Porterville High School, Tulare Western High School and Woodlake High School.

Each team has six to nine members who will compete in ten grueling events in the Academic Decathlon. Team members will test their knowledge of subjects including economics, mathematics, music, art, language and literature, and social science. In addition, the contestants present prepared and impromptu speeches, write an essay on a given topic and are interviewed by a panel of judges.

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The final competitive event is the academic relay known as the oral "Super Quiz." This year's Super Quiz topic is "America: A Growth of a Nation." The Super Quiz round of competition takes place on Saturday, at 2:15 p.m. in the Porterville College Gym and is open to the public. The Super Quiz will be immediately followed by a reception to honor the students and their coaches. An awards ceremony to recognize the top teams will follow the reception and is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m.

"Academic Decathlon is a very competitive event with some strong rivalries among our schools. I particularly enjoy the level of friendly competition and excitement that always surrounds the Super Quiz finale," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

"If you have the opportunity to observe any of the Academic Decathlon - in particular, the Super Quiz event -- I would highly recommend it," says Vidak. "It's great to watch our students competing and the oral quiz format can be quite lively at times," he adds.

For information about the Tulare County Office of Education, call the Public Information Office at (559) 733-6606 or visit our website at www.tcoe.org. For more information about the Academic Decathlon, please call Carmen Friesen at (559) 651-3046.

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