

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

June 2, 2005

Media Alert

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Reconnecting Youth to Hold “Campus Invasion” at COS Friday, June 3, 2005 · 9:30 – 11:30 am

Students from the Tulare County Office of Education’s Reconnecting Youth (RY) program will visit the College of the Sequoias tomorrow morning for tours and information on attending college. Dozens of students from RY classes throughout Tulare County – including 29 graduating seniors – will participate in the event.

Reconnecting Youth is a prevention program that targets young people in grades 9 through 12 who show signs of poor school achievement and the potential of becoming a high school dropout. RY is also a federally approved curriculum adopted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The program, which was initially offered at Tulare County Office of Education's La Sierra High School, several court community schools, and at continuation high schools in Exeter, Woodlake and Yettam, has grown to approximately 20 classes at continuation and comprehensive high schools throughout Tulare County. RY is part of the CHOICES Program – the youth development and prevention office that also includes Friday Night Live.

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Page 2

RY is a semester-long course that helps students develop interpersonal, cognitive and emotional skills. Students also learn how to build positive connections with parents, their peers and teachers, through training in decision making, personal control and self-esteem. Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak praises the RY program, saying: “This is the third year we have lead a “campus invasion” for students. The program has done an incredible job of turning around the attitudes of its participants. The link to higher education RY provides its students is the next best step in ensuring they continue on a positive and productive course.”

RY students will conclude their day with some fun time at the Visalia Adventure Park. For more information, contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at 733-6606.

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