

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: Annual Educators of the Year Awards Ceremony September 22, 2005 · Chinese Cultural Center, Visalia

The Tulare County Office of Education and the Central California Chinese Cultural Center have recently selected three individuals to honor at the Annual Confucius' Birthday/ Educators of the Year Celebration. “Our partnership with the Central California Chinese Cultural Center is one of the most visible ways we recognize teachers from throughout Tulare County for their creativity, dedication and passion for teaching,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “This year’s honorees join an elite group of past winners – the very finest elementary, middle and high school teachers in the county.”

The purpose of the event is to recognize an outstanding elementary, middle and high school teacher in conjunction with the birthday of the great Chinese teacher – Confucius. The 2005 Educators of the Year are Janet Kelly, Gail Grasmick and Lawrence Chan. Ms. Kelly is a Fourth/Fifth Grade Teacher at Kings River Elementary School in Kingsburg. Gail Grasmick is a Language Arts/Mathematics Teacher at Strathmore Middle School in Strathmore and Lawrence Chan, a Business Teacher at Redwood High School in Visalia.

These teachers will be recognized at a dinner to be held at the Chinese Cultural Center Thursday, September 22. The invitation-only event will feature entertainment from the Tulare County Office of

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Education Theatre Company, and a video presentation of each teacher including interviews of his or her students, colleagues and administrators. The evening will conclude with awards presented by Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak, the Board of the Chinese Cultural Center and delegates from Chinese Consul General's office.

For more information on the event, contact Public Information Officer Robert Herman at 733-6606.

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