

# 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: Tulare-Kings P-16 Network Receives Planning Grant**

*Visalia* –The Tulare-Kings P-16 Network for Student Success recently received a planning grant through the Alliance for Regional Collaboration to Heighten Educational Success (ARCHES).

The Network for Student Success is a partnership of local businesses, economic development and community organizations, parents and education partners representing and facilitating P-16 collaboration for the two-county area. The Network for Student Success includes the Tulare County and Kings County Offices of Education, area colleges and several school districts in both Tulare and Kings Counties. The grant was awarded last week to 11 organizations in California, including only five other County Offices of Education. The purpose of the grant is to aid in the development of a P-16 plan for the Tulare/Kings County area. Once the plan is complete, the organization will be eligible for additional support from ARCHES for its implementation.

The primary goal of the Network for Student Success is to develop projects and activities that enhance the learning experience for students from pre-school through college graduation.

Projects will support the transition of all students beyond high school through a better understanding of student assessment and higher education requirements.

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“Our focus is to work collaboratively with businesses and higher education resources in the Central Valley to ensure that Tulare and Kings County students transition seamlessly from grade school to high school and then to college,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “And in the process, we will be building a future workforce that ensures the economic health of our communities.”

“As superintendent of the Kings County Office of Education, I am pleased to participate with the Tulare County Office of Education in supporting the most recent P-16 planning grant,” says John Stankovich. “Our work will focus on improving achievement and providing equitable opportunities for Kings/Tulare students. I look forward to the opportunity to build new partnerships between businesses, communities, schools and higher educational institutions here in the South Valley.”

The Network for Student Success is continually seeking to add to its membership. Schools and businesses are encouraged to join and may obtain more information at [www.tcoe.org/p16](http://www.tcoe.org/p16). For more information about the Network for Student Success, contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at (559) 733-6606.

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