

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

September 22, 2006

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Robert Herman  
Public Information Officer  
559/733-6606  
cell: 559/901-3445

## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: CHARACTER COUNTS! Program Receives Nearly \$2 Million Grant to Conduct Groundbreaking Research Program**

The Tulare County Office of Education is proud to announce that its CHARACTER COUNTS! Program recently received over \$1,993,000 in support from the U.S. Department of Education's Partnership in Character Education Program (PCEP). The grant will be used to conduct a quasi-experimental study of the effectiveness of character education on students in kindergarten through grade 12. The study will take place over the next four years in select Tulare County schools chosen as carefully matched comparison participants.

The PCEP grant, given to the Tulare County Office of Education, was one of the largest in the nation. "The opportunity to study the effects of character education on students is an awesome one," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "For over ten years, we have wholeheartedly supported character education in Tulare County schools and beyond. It's an honor to be chosen for a project which could have positive benefits for schools throughout the nation."

- more -

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

Page 2

Partners in the grant project are the Bonner Center for Character Education at California State University, Fresno and the Josephson Institute of Ethics National Faculty Team. Both the Bonner Center and the Institute will provide ongoing consultation and support. The project will involve not only students but entire school communities – including parents, teachers, staff and other community members

“Once again the Tulare County Office of Education is showing true leadership,” says Michael Josephson, founder of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Program, and president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. “This is such an important grant project, and it will go a long way toward advancing character education and validating its impact in the classroom.”

For more information please contact Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606.

# TCOE #

Rel. 47/06