

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

February 15, 2008

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Four Tulare County Seniors Selected for Governor's First Annual Academic Recognition Program

Last fall, Governor Schwarzenegger announced a new program to honor the top academic students in California high schools. The program – entitled the Governor's Academic Recognition and All State Academic Team – will honor 177 students from throughout the state. Each of the California County Superintendents was charged with organizing the selection process for students in their counties and forwarding an allotted number of nominations to the Governor's office based on county student population. Tulare County was given an allotment of four students.

Tulare County's high school districts submitted a total of 15 names for consideration. A panel of community members reviewed each application and selected the following students to represent Tulare County: Joseph Barnett, a senior at Tulare Western High School; William Dunn, a senior at Monache High School in Porterville; Reena Joy Flores, a senior at Redwood High School in Visalia; and Lena Sweeney, a senior at Golden West High School in Visalia.

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“We are very proud to have so many highly-qualified students – each one deserving recognition as a California academic all-star,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

The Tulare County students will join the other honorees at a dinner event on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at the Sacramento Convention Center Governor hosted by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver. At the event, 25 of the students being honored will also be announced as members of the first annual All State Academic Team.

For more information about the Academic Recognition Program, contact Public Information Officer, Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606.

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Rel: 14/08