

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

April 21, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Robert Herman**
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Three Tulare County Schools Honored Today at Fresno State's Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education

Fresno State's Bonner Center for Character Education recognized 25 Central Valley elementary schools with its 21st Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Awards. These awards are given to schools for exemplary attention to character education. The award ceremony took place Wednesday morning, April 16 at the Fresno Convention Center during the Kremen School of Education's 24th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education.

Winning Central Valley schools for 2008 include three Tulare County schools, one Madera County school, and 21 Fresno county schools (representing Central Unified, Clovis Unified, Fresno Unified and Sanger Unified). The three Tulare County schools are: Burton Elementary School and Oak Grove Elementary School from the Burton Elementary School District, and Monte Vista Elementary School from the Porterville Unified School District

Schools are awarded for meeting the following criteria: promoting core ethical values as the basis of good character; fostering an intentional approach to its core values in all phases of school life; and providing students opportunities for moral action.

- more -

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

“The selection process for this award is a very rigorous one. So we are proud of the achievements of these Porterville-area schools,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “And we appreciate the Bonner Center for all the work it does to reinforce the importance of character education in schools.”

Fresno State’s is the nation’s longest-running character education conference, providing hundreds of prospective teachers with information on local civic agencies devoted to assisting children and families with life issues, said Dr. Jacques S. Benninga, conference co-director.

The day-long conference also presents workshops on professional ethics and decision-making. The conference is a yearly event required of all Fresno State student teachers.

For additional information, please contact:

Dr. Jacques Benninga, Director

Bonner Center for Character Education, CSU Fresno

(559) 278-0253

Ms. Jan Moosoolian, Co-Chair

Conference on Character and Civic Education

(559) 278-0115

#####

Rel: 35/08