

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 Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair begins next week

March 16-22, 2009 • Sequoia Mall, 3303 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia

The 24th Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 16 – 22 at the Sequoia Mall in Visalia during normal mall hours. Over 225 science projects representing the work of students in grades 4 - 12 from 40 Tulare County schools will be on display. Students participating in the Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair may submit their projects under one of two different categories: a “Showing Science” category, which allows students to demonstrate what they know about science; and a “Doing Science” category, which allows students to develop a traditional project involving a hypothesis and an experiment.

Students will set up their projects on Monday, March 16, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Judging will take place that evening, with the top 30 projects in the “Doing Science” category identified as “Sweepstakes Winners.” Students compete in ten categories, including: Behavioral and Social Sciences; Botany; Earth and Space; Engineering and Mathematics; Environmental Science; Medicine and Health; Microbiology and Biochemistry; Physical Science; Product Testing and Materials Science; and Zoology.

- more -

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

Besides the Sweepstakes Winners, The Gas Company® will present a special Environmental Vision Award. Students in grades 6 – 12 who receive a Sweepstakes Award will be interviewed at the fair by a team of science educators and science specialists on Wednesday, March 18. The panel will then select the top eight Tulare County Science Fair projects to continue on to the California State Science Fair.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 17 and 18, community members visiting the Sequoia Mall will be able to vote for their favorite projects. Projects with the most votes will be awarded a “Community Choice Award.” An awards ceremony will be held Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the center court of the Sequoia Mall. Deserving student scientists will be awarded plaques in each of the following areas: Sweepstakes, Environmental Vision and Community Choice. Additionally, those projects that will continue on to the California State Science Fair will be announced. The “Showing Science” projects will be awarded ribbons and medals. Students and teachers responsible for the best project in each of the ten “Doing Science” competition categories will receive a cash prize awarded by the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation.

“Students involved in the Science & Engineering Fair address all types of issues we face as a nation – energy usage, human health, food production and many other concerns,” says Tulare

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Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 3

County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We’re always impressed with their creativity and the thoroughness of their solutions.”

For information about Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, contact the Public Information office at (559) 733-6606 or visit our website at www.tcoe.org. For more information about the 24th Annual Science and Engineering Fair, contact Jonathan Janzen, Science Consultant, at 651-3043, or visit www.tcoe.org/sciencefair.

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