

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

May 4, 2009

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education announces: University Preparatory High School plans information meeting for interested students entering 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades**

Parents and students interested in obtaining more information about the new University Preparatory High School (UPHS) – scheduled to open fall 2009 on the campus of College of the Sequoias (COS) – should attend one of the informational meetings described below:

- **May 6**, 6:30-8:00 pm, College of the Sequoias, Sequoia Bldg. Room 1
- **May 14**, 6:00-8:00 pm, Tulare County Office of Education, 2637 W. Burrel, Visalia
- **May 21**, 6:00-8:00 pm, College of the Sequoias, Sequoia Bldg. Room 1
- **May 28**, 6:00-8:00 pm, College of the Sequoias, Sequoia Bldg. Room 1

UPHS Principal John Kelly will be on hand to answer questions about the new school and to distribute applications.

UPHS was created by the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) – in partnership with the College of the Sequoias – as a high-performance, free, public high school. UPHS welcomes all highly-motivated students looking for an accelerated and rigorous academic program, including English learners needing to develop academic English proficiency and students who may be the first in their family to attend

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college. For fall 2009, **the school will enroll 125 students. Those entering the ninth and tenth grades are encouraged to apply.** Eleventh and twelfth grade classes will be added in subsequent years.

UPHS students will experience their high school years on the COS campus, participate in college classes and earn college credits. This approach, known as an “early college high school,” is a time-tested method proven to increase academic success and college readiness.

To earn college credits, UPHS students will select one of five academic pathways designed around courses offered at the College of the Sequoias, including:

- **Allied Health** pathway, which prepares students for studies in a nursing, pre-med or veterinary program;
- **Business pathway**, for students who wish to obtain a degree in finance, accounting, marketing or management and aspire to serve their communities in public-sector, nonprofit, or corporate organizations;
- **Education** pathway for students who want to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree;
- **Public Safety** pathway with options including criminology, law enforcement, probation, firefighter and paramedic;
- **Social Sciences** pathway with introductory courses in social work, psychology, sociology and history.

UPHS students will also participate in a wide variety of service-learning projects in order to develop the leadership skills needed for success in college and the community. These projects will be “youth-led.” Students will work with stakeholders to identify issues within the community, meet with parties affected by the issue, develop strategies to address the issue and implement solutions. Mentoring is another key

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component to student development at UPHS. Students will participate in two-way mentoring — receiving mentoring from successful college students and community leaders and serving as mentors for younger students in order to increase their interest in higher education.

For additional information, please John Kelly at (559) 730-2529.

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