

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: Chefs in the Classroom kicks off this month Demonstrations begin May 20 in Exeter and continue next fall

Visalia – This month, Tulare County Office of Education’s *Network for a Healthy California* program will kick off its new “Chef in the Classroom” program which is designed to support students in making lifelong healthy choices. “The ‘Chef in the Classroom’ program is a partnership with professional chefs to help develop students’ knowledge and palate through nutritious, healthy samplings of beautifully-prepared and presented foods,” says Nani Rowland, project coordinator for the *Network for a Healthy California* in Tulare County.

On **May 20**, Chef Daniel Cano will visit **Rocky Hill Elementary (11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.) and Lincoln Elementary (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.) in Exeter** to work with students to create a meal, while serving up a lesson full of nourishing nutrition education, savory social studies and a measure of mathematics and science. All meals prepared by Chef Cano come from the *Network for a Healthy California*’s “Kids...Get Cookin’” recipe book. The recipes are healthy, colorful, easy to prepare and delicious. Chef Cano will visit other Tulare County schools beginning in August.

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Chef Daniel Cano is a graduate of the Arts Institute of California, San Diego. Mostly recently, he was a chef at Maravilla at the Ojai Valley Inn and Spa, where he helped secure the resort's five diamond status. Now a private chef, Daniel enjoys being a part of the "Chef in the Classroom" program and the opportunity he has to teach about healthy cooking. "I believe that it is important for the youth of our community to understand and actively partake in healthy living, including enjoying a balanced and nutritious diet," he says.

"Thanks to this unique program, students will gain an understanding of nutrition and cooking that can benefit them their entire lives," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

For more information, contact Nani Rowland at nrowland@tcoe.org or call at 651-0130 Ext. 3720.

Information is also available at www.tcoe.org/Nutrition.

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