

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

February 26, 2010

For Immediate Release

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

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Results from 4th annual Gas Company Student Entrepreneur Challenge

Held Thursday, February 25, 2010 • Visalia Convention Center

On Thursday, February 25, eight teams of young entrepreneurs from Fresno, Tulare and Kings County high schools presented projects developed in response to The Gas Company Student Entrepreneur Challenge. The Challenge, an event sponsored by The Gas Company, is designed to encourage students to develop products, services or other economic growth ideas that can be applied in the San Joaquin Valley.

Teams participating in the event submitted a written business plan and made a live presentation before a panel of business leaders, who served as judges. The teams participating in the event this year represented the following schools: Golden West High School (Visalia), Porterville High School, Monache High School (Porterville), Washington Union High (Fresno County) and Lemoore High School. The student projects ranged from agricultural innovations to socially-oriented retail ventures.

- more -

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

For the first time in the event's history, all teams attended the Economic Development Corporation of Tulare County's annual luncheon – *Recognizing Excellence in Entrepreneurship*. During the luncheon, the top three student teams presented their business concepts to prominent Tulare County business, community and economic development leaders in attendance.

Winners

- 1st Golden West High School (Visalia), “Trailblazer Concepts” (\$1,500 prize).
- 2nd Washington Union High School (Fresno County), “Solar Scene” (\$750 prize)
- 3rd Monache High School (Porterville), “Agiva Coffee and Discotheque” (\$500 prize)

Additional Honors

Another Washington Union High School team won first place in the Business Plan category for their concept of “Go-Go Gadget Cars that Come to You!” Golden West High School and Porterville High School's Academy of Business tied for first place in the Best Exhibit category.

Scholarship Winner

Imran Noorali of Monache High School received the annual STEM Entrepreneur Scholarship of \$1000, sponsored by TUCOEMAS Federal Credit Union. The scholarship was created to support students who exhibit an entrepreneurial spirit. Imran is a senior at Monache High School with a 4.24 GPA. His commitment to business and entrepreneurship is illustrated by his service as president of the Central Section of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). He also served as the president of Monache's FBLA chapter and has twice participated in the Student Entrepreneur Challenge. For the scholarship, he submitted an excellent essay on the potential of technology-based vertical farming. Imran hopes to continue his studies this fall at Fresno State.

- more -

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 3

The Student Entrepreneur Challenge was created from the vision and support of The Gas Company with coordination by the Tulare County Office of Education and local business partners. “We are delighted to see the growing interest in student entrepreneurship,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We appreciate that The Gas Company continues to be such an active partner and that the Economic Development Corporation welcomed the students at their event!”

For more information, please contact Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606.

-TCOE-

Rel: 12/10