

# 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 8-14, 2010 • Sequoia Mall, 3303 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair will be held March 8 – 14 at the Sequoia Mall in Visalia during normal mall hours. Approximately 200 science projects representing the work of students in grades 3 - 12 from 26 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 through a video or PowerPoint presentation for instance; 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 8, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Judging will take place that evening with over 50 engineers, doctors, science teachers, meteorologists, and scientists selecting the top 30 projects in the “Doing Science” category for

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“Sweepstakes Awards.” 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.

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 10. The panel will then select the top eight Tulare County Science Fair projects to continue on to the California State Science Fair in Los Angeles May 17-18.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 9 and 10, 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 11, 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

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categories will receive a cash prize awarded by the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation.

“We’re always impressed with the creativity and thoroughness of the projects in the Science Fair,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Many projects show a real concern on the part of our students to address some serious issues we face as a nation – energy usage, human health, food production and other concerns.”

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](http://www.tcoe.org). For more information about the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Science and Engineering Fair, contact Jonathan Janzen, Science Consultant, at 651-3043, or visit [www.tcoe.org/sciencefair](http://www.tcoe.org/sciencefair).

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