

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: 300 to attend Regional Literacy Conference Wednesday Four of the nation's most respected literacy scholars to address attendees May 19, 2010 • 7:30 am - 4:00 pm • Radisson Conference Center, Fresno

Fresno – On Thursday, May 19, nearly 300 teachers and school administrators will gather for the fifth annual Region VII Literacy Conference at the Radisson Conference Center in Fresno. Region VII is made up of county offices of education and school districts in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties. The purpose of the conference is to gather leading scholars, classroom teachers, and administrators to showcase the latest research and best practices for literacy development in preschool through 12th-grade students.

Four nationally-respected educators will address conference attendees throughout the day:

Dr. Kate Kinsella, faculty member with the Department of Secondary Education at San Francisco State University, will present during the first general session a message entitled *Structured and Accountable Classroom Language Used Across the Curricula: Key to Narrowing the K-12 Verbal Gap*.

Dr. Lesley Morrow, professor of Early Childhood Literacy and Literacy Education at Rutgers University, past president of the International Reading Association, and primary author of

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Houghton-Mifflin's preschool curriculum, will present *Delivering Excellent Language Arts Instruction throughout the Day: Guided Reading, Center Materials, Differentiation of Instruction and Motivation*.

Dr. Timothy Shanahan, professor of urban education at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), director of the UIC Center for Literacy and past president of the International Reading Association, will present *Meeting the Needs of English Learners: Results from the National Literacy Panel on Language Minority Children and Youth*.

Dr. Michael Smith, professor at Temple University's College of Education and Fellow of the National Conference on Research in Language and Literacy, will present "*I Just Like Being Good at It*": *The Importance of Competence in Motivating Striving Adolescent Readers*.

"The importance of developing English literacy skills is critical to the success of students in the San Joaquin Valley," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "I appreciate the Region VII English/Language Arts Council bringing these exceptional literacy experts in elementary, secondary and English language acquisition to Central California."

In addition to the keynote presenters, conference attendees will have the opportunity to attend more than a dozen breakout sessions on a variety of subjects, ranging from family literacy and preparing students for college reading and writing to English language development and pre-kindergarten writing programs. A display of materials from a variety of textbook publishers will be available throughout the conference.

"We are delighted by the turnout considering the restrictions teachers and administrators have on

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conference trainings,” says Tulare County Office of Education instructional consultant and Region VII language arts lead Charlene Stringham. “Despite the cutbacks schools are experiencing, many have chosen to use available resources to focus on the critical task of strengthening literacy instruction in their classrooms.”

For information on the Region VII Literacy Conference, contact Charlene Stringham at (559) 651-3031.

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