



CHARACTER COUNTS! Week kicks off October 21 to honor nearly 6,000 Kids of Character



On October 21, Tulare County residents will learn that local students of character are making a difference on their campuses and in their communities – and that there are thousands of them! Through a 24-year partnership with the *Visalia Times-Delta* and *Tulare Advance-Register*, readers will be treated to stories of individual students and groups who were selected from of nearly 6,000 Kids of Character nominations received from 143 Tulare County schools.

Beginning Monday, the newspapers will profile an honoree or group of honorees representing each of the Pillars of Character – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Along with the daily feature stories, the newspaper will include brief profiles of finalists for each pillar. In all, the newspapers will run six feature stores and 30 finalist profiles.

“The partnership with the *Visalia Times-Delta* and *Tulare Advance-Register* in advocating for character education is unique in the nation,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “We appreciate the publisher’s commitment to this program, which dates back to 1996. It is a program communities around our country can look to as a model!”

The top honorees and finalists will be honored at the annual CHARACTER COUNTS! Provident/Salierno Family Foundation Awards on October 30. To read the stories of all the students honored at the Provident/Salierno Family Foundation Awards, visit tcoe.org/KidsofCharacter beginning November 4.

CHOICES receives additional funding to target illegal sale and use of tobacco products



The TCOE CHOICES Program recently received a third round of funding from the California Department of Justice's Tobacco Grant Program to tackle the illegal sale and use of cigarettes, tobacco, and vaping products among minors. The grant, totaling nearly \$365,000, will be used to partner with the Farmersville Police Department, which will work with local merchants to support laws related to the sales and marketing of tobacco products to minors. Law enforcement officers and CHOICES staff will assess businesses and their placement of tobacco and vaping products and advertisements.

At Farmersville Junior High, CHOICES prevention educators will present curriculum over the course of the school year on the dangers of tobacco and alcohol. Utilizing the Botvin LifeSkills curriculum, students will learn the short- and long-term effects of tobacco and alcohol use and how advertising companies target youth to buy and use their products. The curriculum also helps students develop the communication, assertiveness, and conflict resolution skills to say "no" in high pressure situations.

The grant, awarded to TCOE October 1 by the California Department of Justice, originated from the Proposition 56 Tobacco Tax Increase Initiative passed by voters in November 2016. Beginning April 1, 2017, tax on all tobacco and electronic cigarettes was increased by \$2.00. Revenues from this tax helped to fund the grant being implemented by the CHOICES Program.

For more information about the CHOICES tobacco education programs and the growing use and dangers of vaping, call Tony Cavanagh at (559) 651-0155.

Shelah Feldstein becomes national faculty member with Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

Shelah Feldstein, an administrator with Leadership Support Services, has been appointed to the national faculty of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for her work in the field of improvement science. The Carnegie Foundation's mission is to increase the use of improvement science and networked improvement communities to solve long-standing inequities in education. National faculty members are asked to share their expertise and experience to contribute to the spread and understanding of improvement science.

Mrs. Feldstein joined the Instructional Services Division in 2013 as a staff development and curriculum specialist for Mathematics. She also co-lead the Central Valley Networked Improvement Communities (CVNIC), which is a consortium of Tulare and Kings county school districts working to improve elementary math instruction. CVNIC was initially funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and included the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Stanford University as partners.



Coming Up!

- x October 20 -26
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week
For more information, contact Kelley Petty at kelleyp@tcoe.org or (559) 740-4303.
- x October 21 -25
Red Ribbon Week
[More information](#)
- x October 30
Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration
4:00 - 6:00pm, Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia, Visalia
For more information, contact the CHOICES Program (559) 651-0155.
- x November 4
Implementing the EL Roadmap for Leadership Teams

9:00am - 2:00pm, TCOE Conference Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia
Register online to attend at tulare.k12oms.org/147-172073.

x November 5

RegionVII Conference Best Results for English Learners

8:00am - 3:30pm, Double Tree Conference Center, 2233 Ventura St., Fresno

Register online to attend at tulare.k12oms.org/147-166551.

View more events at tcoe.org/CalendarofEvents.

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Public Information Officer

Contributors: Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Lorena White, Kelley Petty, Donna Glassman-Sommer, Tony Cavanagh, Charlene Stringham, and Michelle Trevino.

To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit tcoe.org/GetTheGallery, or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.
