



Three teachers to be honored through Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Awards Program

Since 1994, the Central California Chinese Cultural Center has partnered with the Tulare County Office of Education to honor teachers through the Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Awards event. Chinese people around the world often mark the occasion of Confucius' birthday in late September by recognizing exemplary teachers. Each year, members of the Chinese Cultural Center hold a dinner celebration at their facilities in Visalia to honor one elementary, one middle, and one high school teacher.



On Thursday, September 19, invited educators, family, and friends will celebrate three exemplary teachers at the 26th Annual Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Awards.

“This year’s winners are exceptional teachers who have a passion for building character and life skills in their students,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “The positive difference they make in the lives of their students will be remembered for years to come.”

The winners of the 2019 Educators of the Year Awards are:

Terri Dillard, First-Grade Teacher Rockford School

Terri Dillard is entering her 25th year as a teacher. She began her career at Sunnyside Union School before transitioning to Rockford School in 2000 where she serves as a first-grade teacher. Mrs. Dillard is praised by Rockford Superintendent Caron Borba as “one of the most dedicated teachers that I have ever met.” Mrs. Dillard spends her break time and lunches with students in her classroom, helping them improve on their reading skills. She takes struggling readers to great heights, giving each student special attention to ensure that no one slips through the cracks.



“Even after 25 years in education, Terri is willing to try new teaching methods and adapt her teaching style and curriculum to enable her students to be 21st century learners,” said Mrs. Borba. “She is a great role model and help to new teachers as well. When I think of Terri Dillard as a teacher, she is rock solid.”

“I feel my job is to give my students a solid foundation in education and help build their character,” said Mrs.

John Lujan, Mathematics Teacher
Strathmore High School

John Lujan is a mathematics teacher at Strathmore High School with 20 years of teaching experience across all grade levels. On some days, he might be in his classroom explaining math problems and guiding students to solutions. More often though, he's at the Strathmore High School farm helping students learn math concepts through real-world applications. A self-described chili pepper farmer, Mr. Lujan uses his knowledge of agriculture to teach students in his classes, which range from math skills for freshmen to consumer math for seniors. At the farm, students have planted

“A complete and accurate count o

For copies of the *Know Your Rights* cards or for a schedule of the Tulare County 2020 Census CCC meetings, please contact Robert Herman at robh@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Benita Duran, a partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, is pictured addressing administrators from TCOE's Migrant Education and Early Childhood Education Programs on the project's timeline and the educational resources available to schools and parents.

Red Ribbon Celebration set for October 21-25

The annual **Tulare County Office of Education Red Ribbon Week** will be held **October 21-25** with the theme of ***Send a Message, Stay Drug Free***. The Red Ribbon Week committee will host fundraising activities throughout the week with an emphasis on making positive life choices without the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. This year, the committee has chosen the Tulare County Office of Education Foundation as the recipient of proceeds collected during Red Ribbon Week. The foundation provides support to TCOE programs and events through grants.

Orders for the **Red Ribbon t-shirts** – now on sale – are **due by Thursday, September 26** at noon. For a copy of the order form and to see updates about Red Ribbon Week, visit tcoe.org/RedRibbon.



Nominations now open for Kids of Character Awards

Nominations for the annual **Kids of Character** recognition program and the Provident-Salierno Family Foundation Awards are being **accepted through September 27**. Teachers, family, and community members may recognize a Tulare County K-12 student for their outstanding character by visiting tcoe.org/KidsofCharacter. Featured students will be announced during **CHARACTER COUNTS! week, October 20-26**. This year, the Provident-Salierno winners and finalists will be honored at an awards ceremony to be held at TCOE's Redwood Conference Center (6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia) beginning at 6:00 p.m. on October 30.

Coming Up!

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9:00am-2:00pm, TCOE Conference Center

More information [Coic4Tw2reEMCIBdyMCID11D0gC20_1Tf9.96-009.969026-4.6Tm00785TT31Tf0.4580Td0](http://tcoe.org/KidsofCharacter)

5:30-8:00pm, International Agri-Center, Tulare
[More information.](#)

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for 6th grade students and their families
11:00am-4:00pm, SCICON Campus, Springville
[More information.](#)

View more events at tcoe.org/CalendarofEvents.

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