Community invited to nominate Kids of Character for 25th annual celebration
The nomination window for the 25thn Aual Kids of Character Awards opened this week. Educators, parents, and community members are encouraged to take a few moments to nominatural Tulare County students (grad EK-

Educators, parents, and community members are invited to submit their nominations through September 24 by visiting <a href="total-color: blue-recognized">total-color: blue-recognized</a> during National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week, Octobe 24.

CHARACTER COUNTS! was introduced in the Tulare County Office of Education's court schools program in 1994. So successful was the program with students on probation that then County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak committed to making the program widely available to school districts, service agencies, and other community organizations.

Tulare County celebrated its first National CHARACTER COUNT\$ Week in Octobe 1996 with a rally held in Visalia's Sunkist Stadium (now Mineral King Bowl). The event attracted over 1,100 students with 100 honored as "Kids of Character." During CHARACTER COUNTS! Week in Octobe 1998, longtime partner Visalia Time Delta began to run feature stories on select Kids of Charactene to represent each of the Six Pillars of Character.

Last year during CHARACTER COUNTS! Week, nearly 6,000 youth were recognize os ient eaa( C)-3 (ha )]TJ -0.002 T]TJ 0 is, IOU(ogni) bm0 (, )81 nn

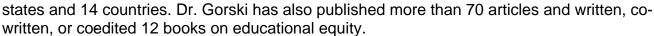
## *Photos above:*

- ~ Students attending the first Tulare County CHARACTER COUNTS! Week celebration in 1996 formed the program's logo on the field at Sunkist Stadium (now Mineral King Bowl).
- ~ By 1998, Tulare County's CHARACTER COUNTS! Week celebration included daily feature articles in the Visalia TimesDelta—one for each of the Six Pillars of Character.

## Registration now open for sixpart virtual equity training

Equity leader and author Dr. Paul Gorski is returning to Tulare County this fall to conduct a spert virtual training series beginning Octoberfor educators in Tulare and surrounding counties. Through this series, Dr. Gorski will expand on his presentation delivered at the first annual TCOE Equity Conference in January 2020. He will share set of equity principles and skills to guide any equity practice toward its central goal: to identify and eliminate inequity within our school communities.

Dr. Gorski is the founder of the Equity Literacy Institute. He has 20 years of experience helping educators strengtheir equity efforts. He has worked with educators in 48



Participants should plan to commit to the entire seribischwincludes 90minute sessions on October7, 14, and 28, Novemberand 17, and December The equity series is free to Tulare County educators; those outside the county are asked to pay \$25. Visit tcoe.org/Equitory Series register today. For additional information, please contact Martin Frolli at martinf@tcoe.org.

Dates for 202021 student events now online
The Calendar of Student Events for the 2020school year is online at tcoe.org/StudentEvents The webpage contains dates and information on over 40 TCOE student events and programs. While restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic have required changes to many of the student events, very few have been cancelled. Many have moved from live to virtual formats. For participation questions, contact the event coordinator listed in the calendar.
Photo above:

To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit tcoe.org/GetTheGalleor contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733172.