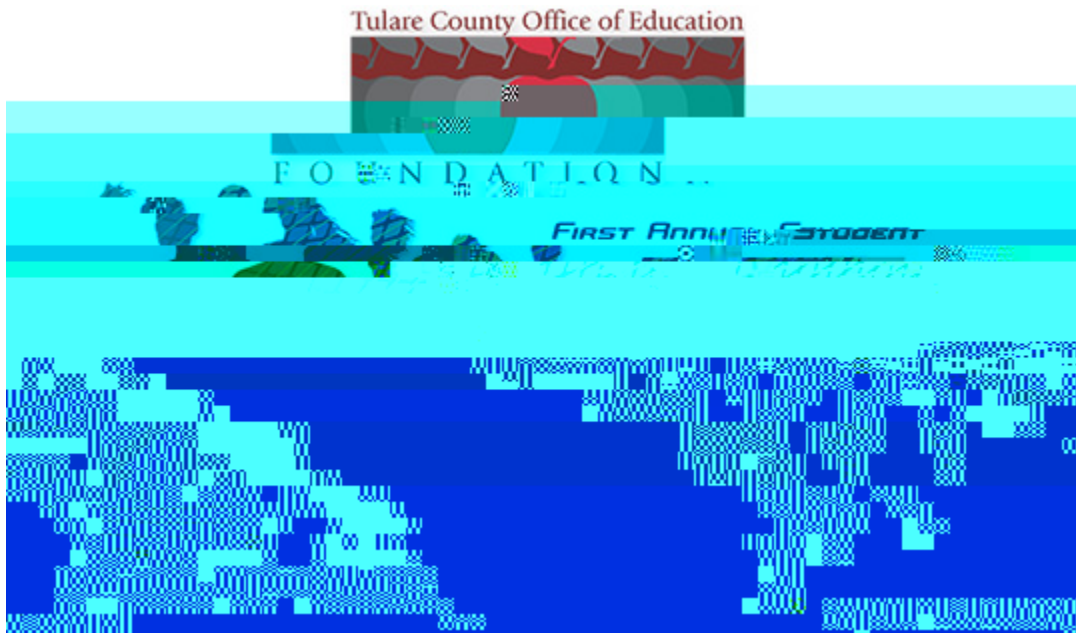




TCOE Foundation launches first annual 5K Run/Walk fundraiser to expand its support to Tulare County schools



Last week, the TCOE Foundation announced it would hold its first annual 5K Run/Walk fundraiser this spring. The event is open to Tulare County students of all abilities in grades TK-12, plus those in Community Based Instruction Programs. Last year, the Foundation Board envisioned an annual family fundraiser event to bring the community together to celebrate student talents and enjoy fun and healthy activities. A 5K Run/Walk was part of their vision. "While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from hosting a large public event at Mooney Grove Park, this year's virtual 5K Run/Walk will serve to kick-off our new outreach efforts," said Foundation President Janice Castle.

Students may run, walk, or roll the distance (if using a wheelchair) between April 19 and May 7 to complete the 5K (3.1 miles). The event may be completed at one time or in a series of smaller distances over several days.

Students will receive a t-shirt, delivered to their schools the week of April 19.

All funds raised by students participating in the event will benefit dozens of TCOE student events, including National History Day, Science Olympiad, and Young People's Concerts, and programs such as SCICON, the Planetarium & Science Center, and the Theatre Company. "Our board is increasing its fundraising efforts so that it is able to support Tulare County schools looking to implement new ideas or participate in county programs and events," said Mrs. Castle.

To get started, school administrators are invited to share with their students the registration/pledge form found at tcoe.org/Foundation5K. Administrators are also encouraged to designate a school representative to submit their contact information on the "Register Your School" link at tcoe.org/Foundation5K.

Pledges should be turned in to participating schools by March 24. For more information, visit tcoe.org/Foundation5K.

Annual STEAM Expo to be virtual on Saturday

Since 2015, students and families have gathered at the STEAM Expo to enjoy science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics activities. In the past, the event has had a festival-like quality with community booths and food, demonstrations and speakers, and creative hands-on activities for students of all ages. At the core of the Expo is the long-running Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair. Traditionally, elementary, middle, and high school students submit their projects to be judged by a panel of experts. This year, the Expo will be virtual, allowing students to participate from anywhere. The virtual Expo will feature a variety of activities, including virtual tours of local museums and science centers, virtual demonstrations and experiments, and virtual competitions. Students will also have the opportunity to interact with experts in their field of interest. The virtual Expo will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit tcoe.org/Foundation5K.

Young entrepreneurs, scientists, healthcare providers, and agriculturalists are invited to register their exemplary school projects in the annual Night at the 21st Century Museum (N21CM) event. Scheduled virtually for May, N21CM is open to all Tulare County students, grades TK-12.

Event organizers at Educational Resource Services are planning to develop a virtual showcase where students and educators can learn about other's projects and learning experiences, and network with one another. "Night at the 21st Century Museum is an excellent program to highlight how Tulare County schools are using project based learning to prepare students for college, care