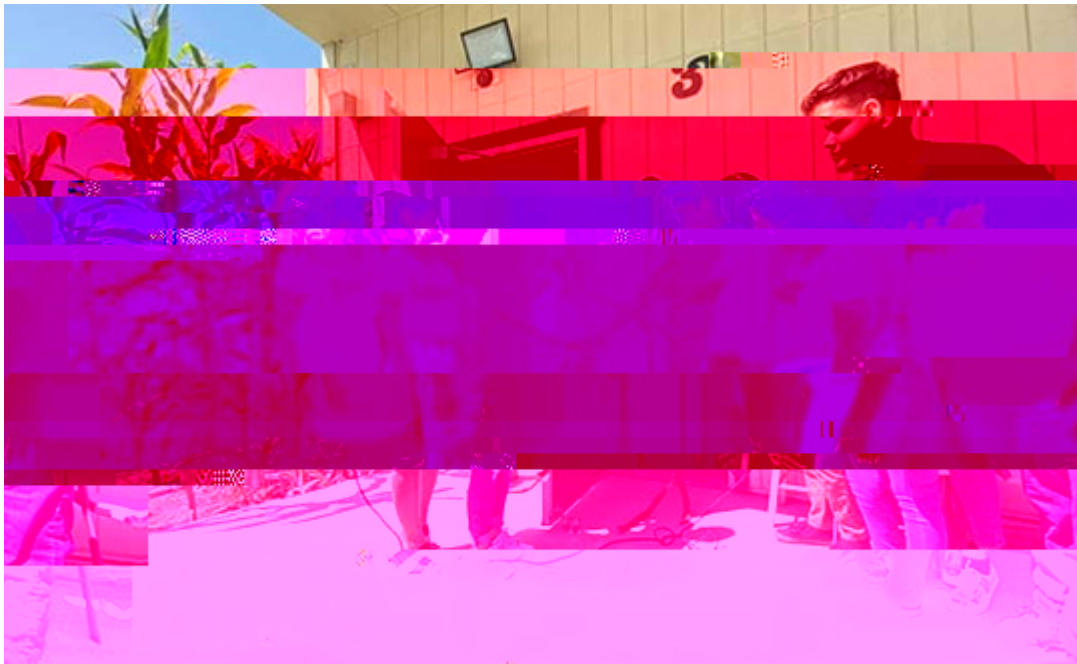




Step Up Youth Challenge resumes next week with advisor training



Since the 2012-2013 school year, the Step Up Youth Challenge has been a vehicle for students to create impactful projects at their schools and in their communities. Often working alongside community agencies, dozens of middle and high school teams have participated over the years to develop projects that address a wide range of issues –

Through the yearlong process of developing their projects, students learn how to identify community needs, develop a project plan, and implement it in partnership with others. Along the way, they gain real insight into the process of

organization known as TCAPS, the students began the process of securing space for the library, acquiring a library collection and equipment, and partnering with other service organizations and agencies for support. For their efforts, the Traver team won the Best Overall Award in the middle school category and a \$2,500 grant provided by the County of Tulare.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Youth Challenge was suspended last year. This didn't stop the Traver students from continuing their work. With great perseverance, the students built out a colorful library space complete with computers and workstations in the TCAPS center, developed their library collection, and held a grand opening this summer.

"The Traver library is just one of dozens of projects completed through the Step Up program that are making real differences in

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Dr. José Medina will be the keynote speaker. Medina is the founder of an educational consulting firm, and former research scientist and director of Dual Language and ESL Education at the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) in Washington, DC. In his role as an education consultant, Medina provides technical assistance, professional development, and support to schools and districts across the United States and globally. He is a former school principal and district leader, and co-author of the third edition of the widely-used

The conference will also feature breakout sessions on a variety of topics, including newcomer ELs, long-term English learners, EL policy, and reclassification. A question-and-answer panel discussion will also be included.

The cost to register for the conference is \$99 per person. Registration information and a conference agenda is available at www.eventsquid.com/event/14362.

Nominations are open for Kids of Character Awards

TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! Program is now accepting nominations for its "Kids of Character" Awards.

Nominations will be accepted through September 24 for Tulare County students (grades TK - 12) who are exhibiting great character during these challenging times. Teachers, parents, and family members are encouraged to nominate Kids of Character as part of the 26th Annual CHARACTER COUNTS! Week Celebration (October 18 -

- September 9
Step Up Youth Challenge Advisor Training
4:30-6:00pm, TCOE Conference Center
[Registration information](#)
- September 9
Tulare County College Night
5:00-7:00pm, Virtual
[Registration information](#)
- September 10
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