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## **Health Care Jobs Focus of 2011 Youth Career Conference**

*Growing Health Leaders Career Conference explores options for students*  
**Visalia, CA** — The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB), in partnership with the Central Valley Health Network (CVHN), is hosting the second annual Growing Health Leaders Career Conference on Friday, May 6, at the Visalia Convention Center.

More than 350 high school students currently enrolled in a health care academy or health care occupation course are expected to participate in the event that includes presentations on growing health care occupations including Physician, Dentist, Nursing, and various technician occupations.

“California has a dire shortage in health care professionals. The conference is an important step toward diversifying and growing the health care workforce in the Central Valley by encouraging our youth to pursue their goals of becoming a health care professional.” said Jason Vega, CEO of CVHN. “It is important that we grow our own future leaders of the health care industry.”

The career conference is a product of the hard work of CVHN and the WIB’s Health Care Sector Committee, whose members include representatives from Family Health Care Network, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Tulare Community Health Clinic, Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency and other prominent health care organizations around the County. The goal of the conference is interaction of students with health professionals in occupations as well as to expose students to the spectrum of occupations available in health care today.

A unique aspect of this event is a “Reality Check” session where students have a candid discussion with professionals about steps needed to achieve career goals. The discussion includes financial planning and other life management skills needed to succeed in college and afterwards. Another unique session was funded by the grant from NACHC which will focus on the opportunities available in the Community Health Corps (AmeriCorps) program.

“This event is a chance for our health care organizations to inspire our region’s future professionals,” said Adam Peck, WIB Executive Director. “We received grant funding for this year based on the success of last year’s event.”

The event is funded by a grant from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), a grant from Kaiser Permanente, as well as funding from the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC).

For more information regarding the WIB’s Health Care Sector Committee and future events, call Natalie Hanes at 559-713-5200.

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