



TULARE-KINGS HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2023

Tulare-Kings Healthcare Partnership Announces the 2023 Growing Health Leaders Conference

Growing Health Leaders (GHL) is an annual educational healthcare conference focusing on career exploration for high school students steered by the Tulare-Kings Healthcare Partnership, an industry, workforce and education-driven collaboration supported by the Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County and Tulare County Office of Education.

After a three-year pause due to the pandemic, Growing Health Leaders (GHL) is returning to the Tulare County Office of Education at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. on April 17, 2023. More than 300 health science pathway high school students in Tulare and Kings counties are registered to attend this half-day event. Capacity for the event has been reached. Registration is now closed.

The Tulare-Kings HealthCare Partnership (TKHP) Chair, Dr. Jeffery L. Hudson-Covolo, expressed his excitement to restart the conference this year, “After the pandemic, it is time to return to encouraging our youth to get interested in career pathways in healthcare.” Kicking off the conference, TKHP member Graciela Soto-Perez, chief executive officer, Altura Centers for Health, Tulare, will present the keynote address. Graciela will share her health career journey from middle school hospital volunteer to her current position today as the CEO of a healthcare organization that provides comprehensive, compassionate, high-quality care for people in the Central Valley.

Students will attend breakout sessions featuring more than 30 Tulare and Kings county healthcare professionals from various occupations, who will share first-hand knowledge of the industry and encourage students to enter in-demand health careers after graduation. Sierra View Medical Center, Family HealthCare Network, Tulare County Health & Human Services, Altura Centers for Health, Adventist Health, Kaweah Health, and HealthForce are providing speakers for this important event. Marisol de la Vega Cardoso, Chief Administrative Officer, Family HealthCare Network provided insights into why healthcare partners are so excited to support the students attending GHL 2023, “Family HealthCare Network is proud to support our talented young people throughout the communities we serve, particularly in a post-pandemic landscape that has fostered creativity, prioritized empathy, and established new standards for the future of quality health care”

New for GHL 2023 is an outdoor emergency medical transport exhibit featuring a SkyLife Air Ambulance helicopter. The Tulare County Fire Department and American Ambulance will also have ambulances, Trucks, and paramedics onsite, showcasing the variety of first responder careers students can attain if they continue their healthcare studies after graduation. More than 15 educational organizations will provide health science programs, including adult schools, community colleges, and state colleges and universities.



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To conclude the day of health career discovery, students will hear from a panel of nurses trained in various specialties during the Nursing Panel discussion. This panel will explore the many nursing vocations students may enter after high school graduation and discuss nursing opportunities for individuals interested in obtaining a post-secondary certificate, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degrees.

Growing Health Leaders Conference

April 17, 2023

Tulare County Office of Education, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd.

8:30 – 1:30 pm

Participating Schools/Districts:

Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Corcoran High School

Dinuba High School

Hanford Unified School District

Lemoore High School

Lindsay High School

Porterville Unified School District

Tulare Joint Union High School District

Burton School District

Visalia Unified School District

Event Host:

Tulare-Kings Healthcare Partnership (TKHP)

TKHP Chairperson:

Dr. Jeffery L. Hudson-Covolo, vice president of Patient Care Services & Chief Nurse Executive/Chief Academic Officer & Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for Sierra View Medical Center, Porterville, California.

Event Coordinators:

Shelsy Hutchison, College and Career Engagement Specialist, Tulare County Office of Education

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Tulare-Kings Healthcare Partnership (TKHP) is an industry-driven partnership that addresses the healthcare industry's workforce, education, and competitiveness needs in Tulare and Kings counties. The Partnership was established in 2009 and supported by the Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB). In 2010, the annual Growing Health Leaders (GHL) conference was launched to engage local high school students in health careers.

The Tulare-Kings College and Career Collaborative convenes, connects, and measures the impact of our regional intersegmental work supporting the college and career readiness goals of our K12, Post-Secondary and Workforce partners. The Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative include two county offices of education, 21 high school partner districts, 6 postsecondary institutions and impacts over 13,000 students in Tulare and Kings counties.

The mission of the Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB) is to advance the economic vitality of Tulare County through strategic funding investments aimed at growing the skills and talent of our workforce. The WIB conveys funds to the region to convene industry, identify skills gaps, and broker solutions that help local businesses find the skilled workforce they need to succeed.