

Tulare students talk patriotism in VFW contest

Calley Cederlof, Visalia Times-Delta 3:36 p.m. PT Jan. 16, 2017



VFW Quarter Master Leonard Smith with students Robert Hinojos, Elias Delgadillo, Abigail Ross and Jenna Davis at an awards assembly at Tulare Union on Thursday. (Photo: Calley Cederlof)

This year's Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition, presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars, asked high school students to express what their responsibility to America is.

For four Tulare Union High School students, the contest allowed them to be recognized for their work and helped them appreciate their country in the process.

"It made me remember why I loved America again," said Abigail Ross, who was recently recognized for her essay. "This whole election, everyone has been hating on each other. This reminded us why we love the United States."

On Thursday, VFW Quarter Master Leonard Smith, of Tulare Post 2002, visited the high school

to congratulate Ross, Robert Hinojos, Elias Delgadillo and Jenna Davis on their essays.

The four students placed in the top four of the Tulare Post's contest.

The contest also deepened the gratitude the students have for veterans, they said.

"I thought a lot more about what patriotism really is," Hinojos said. "You realize the sacrifice these guys made. It's incredible."

Delgadillo agreed.

"I feel very in debt to these people who have served this country," he said.

Arts in Tulare County

Arts education will be the focus of two workshops coming to Visalia this week.

Representatives from the state's leading arts education and advocacy organizations – Create CA, California Alliance for Arts Education, California County Superintendents Educational

Services Association Arts Initiative and California Department of Education– will be in Visalia on Thursday and Friday for two events focused on The State of Arts Education in California.

On Thursday, the Arts Consortium and the Fresno County Arts Council will host a workshop showcasing ways local arts organizations and community members can support arts education.

State representatives will be available to discuss recent changes in education funding and how this impacts the arts. They will also share a range of new statewide initiatives, such as the California Arts Education Data Project and the Arts Now Communities.

The workshop is free and a light dinner will be provided by Create CA.

Pre-registration is requested. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/state-of-arts-education-workshop-tickets-30499997313> to register.

The event will be held from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Arts Consortium, 400 N. Church St. in Visalia.

An additional workshop featuring the same statewide partners will be held on Friday.

This session, hosted by the Tulare County Office of Education, is aimed at school administrators and educators looking to build or grow their arts education programs. The workshop will take a deeper look at the state tools and will provide resources to create an arts education strategic plan.

The session is also free and a light lunch will be provided by Create CA.

Pre-registration is requested.

Visit <https://tulare.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=147&id=126281> to register.

The event will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Tulare County Office of Education Administration Building, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia.

For more information on either event, contact Kate Stover at 741-0809 or kstover@tcoe.org.