



Media Release

Mark Case, Southern Guilford High School, Greensboro, North Carolina (Guilford County Schools) recognized for Excellence in Energy

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Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2018 recipient of the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award is Mark Case of Southern Guilford High School in Greensboro, North Carolina (Guilford County Schools).

The Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award was created by NEED in memory of long-time NEED teacher and staff member Bob Thompson. Bob was a dedicated teacher, friend, and proponent of science and energy education. His time at NEED enriched many, encouraged all, and improved the way we present and teach about energy in our curriculum and training workshops. Bob was a good friend to many here at NEED and he and his spirit live on in our work. Because of this, NEED established the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award that is given each year to a teacher who exemplifies Bob's childlike wonder of science, technology and energy.

The award includes a \$1,000 cash grant to the teacher to use as he/she chooses in the classroom and an all-expenses paid trip to the NEED Energy Conference for Educators hosted in Galveston, Texas, July 8-12, 2018. The award will be given at the 38th Annual NEED Youth Energy Conference and Awards hosted in Washington, D.C. June 25, 2018.

Mark's nomination from his colleague Carol Meirelles, Energy Engineer for Guilford County Schools, highlighted his dedication to students, teachers, and the knowledge of energy. She said of Mark, *"I am nominating Mark Case for the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Education Award. He is one of those teachers that you will never forget. He is an outstanding educator who personifies what every teacher should strive to be. He firmly believes in experiential learning. He believes engaged students who are held responsible for their education will be prepared for lifelong learning. Innovation, blended learning and expansion of learning opportunities are a mainstay of Mark's teaching. His students do not sit at their desks and get bored."*

Carol continues saying, *"So, what makes Mark so unique? He is never still! He has procured over \$11,000 in grants over the past ten years and used these monies solely for energy education. He has been the school's mentor for the Energy WISE club since the project started in the 2010-2011 school year. His club uses NEED materials to develop student leaders, to help their school understand its carbon footprint and to help the school learn where energy is wasted. An example of one of his activities is when his students measured the light output in the media center and calculated the cost of having all the lights on during the day. They developed a scenario to show savings if the light switches could be rewired to where lights could be selectively controlled instead of an all on or all off situation. They presented their data and convinced the school to rewire."*

Mark and his students developed kits that included lesson plans, Learning and Conserving Kit equipment such as: kill-a-watt meters, light meters, digital thermometers and flicker checkers for students to take home and measure energy consumption. Students compiled the data and then suggested ways to conserve energy for their families. Over 400 students have participated in the program. One example of students teaching students is when his students took the NEED Science of Energy Kit, set up stations and taught over 100 elementary students. Another example is when two of his seniors developed lessons, trained the other club members, went to a middle school and taught energy concepts using the NEED Science of Energy Kit. In March, his students will design ramps using PVC pipes, roll marbles down the ramps and teach over 1800 students at Energy Day at NC A& T State University about kinetic and potential energy, speed, velocity, force, energy, etc."

Mark embodies all of the great qualities that Bob Thompson is remembered for in the NEED Project family. Congratulations to this great energy educator and dedicated friend of NEED!

For more information about the NEED Project and the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award, please contact Mary E. Spruill at (703) 257-1117 or mspruill@need.org.

<http://www.need.org>

<http://blog.need.org/2013/03/remembering-a-great-teacher-and-a-good-guy-%e2%80%93-bob-thompson/>

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