



## Media Release

**Connie Michael, Crow Agency Public School, Crow Agency, MT (Hardin School District) recognized for Excellence in Energy**

**For Immediate Release – May 29, 2019**

Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2019 recipient of the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award is Connie Michael of Crow Agency Public School in Crow Agency, Montana (Hardin School District).

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 7-11, 2019. The award will be given at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual NEED Youth Energy Conference and Awards hosted in Washington, D.C. June 24, 2019.

Connie's nomination from her colleagues describe her as dedicated, knowledgeable, and supportive. Freida Nellis, Special Education Teacher at Crow Agency Public School, praises Connie on her dedication to students and their education. She said, "*Mrs. Michael is constantly searching for new techniques, strategies, and resources to best support her students. She has hands on experiences and interactive learning opportunities often in the classroom.*"

Her principal, Jason Cummins, describes Connie's teaching style as engaging, contagious enthusiasm, and community involved. From her students learning how the turbines of nearby Yellowtail dam utilize the flow of water to help power the community to learning how the Crow Reservation coal mine used to provide heat for their school, Mrs. Michael is constantly coming up with science activities to excite her students and guide them in their discovery and knowledge of energy.

Thank you, Connie, for embodying the great qualities that Bob Thompson is remembered for in the NEED Project family. Congratulations to this great energy educator and 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](mailto:mspruill@need.org).

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