



## Media Advisory

**Colleen Keene, Ed W. Clark High School, Las Vegas, NV recognized for the Youth Energy Leadership Award.**

**For Immediate Release – June 7, 2021**

Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2021 recipient of the Youth Energy Leadership Award to Colleen Keene of Ed W. Clark High School in Las Vegas, Nevada!

The Youth Energy Leadership Award was created by NEED's Board of Directors to recognize students who go above and beyond in their pursuit of energy knowledge and the teaching of others. This prestigious award is designed to honor students demonstrating effective leadership skills and energy knowledge throughout their association with NEED.

NEED congratulates Colleen Keene of Ed W. Clark High School on receiving the 2021 Youth Energy Leadership Award. This award includes a \$1,500 scholarship to be used for educational plans. The award will be given at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual NEED Youth Awards for Energy Achievement in Washington, D.C. on June 27, 2021. Colleen is planning to pursue a degree in Zoology this fall at the State University of New York at Oswego.

Colleen has been an integral part of the NEED family, having been involved with NEED for the past eleven years! From serving on Youth Staff each summer for the annual Youth Energy Conference and Awards to recently helping virtually assist both teachers and students for energy training workshops, we value her collaborative spirit and leadership skills.

NEED Curriculum Director, Emily Hawbaker, noted specifically during the Youth Energy Conference and Awards, "Colleen has a knack for finding solutions to problems quickly, efficiently, and practically. It's refreshing, as the resident adult in the room, to have a student hear an instruction once and apply credence to it beyond that moment. Colleen is able to quickly pick up on what makes things run smoothly and keep those items in motion."

NEED's philosophy is Kids Teaching Kids, which Colleen has certainly demonstrated. She spent a year volunteering at a local aquarium teaching guests about reptiles, marine animals, and mammals. She has also volunteered at a local nature preserve and is a dedicated Girl Scout, earning her Gold Award, and received an Eagle Scout Award in May 2021! Colleen herself says, "NEED has established my goals and given me the skills to achieve them, so I recognize my responsibility to pass on my knowledge to others. My goal is to work in a hands-on environment where I can directly educate students about ecosystems and how we can protect them."

Her nomination from teacher, Robin Brown, expresses Colleen as naturally curious and passionate. Robin says, "She asks great questions, pursues her own investigations into ideas she finds intriguing, and shares her excitement with others. I've enjoyed learning from her about scientific topics she has researched. Colleen's curiosity about the world, and science in particular, is admirable, and predictive of a lifetime of inquiry and discovery."

Congratulations to this extraordinary young woman!

For more information about the NEED Project and the Youth Energy Leadership Award, please contact Mary E. Spruill at (703) 257-1117 or [mspruill@need.org](mailto:mspruill@need.org).

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