



## Media Release

### **Cori Nelson, Winfield Central School, Winfield, Illinois (Winfield School District) recognized for Excellence in Energy**

**For Immediate Release – June 15, 2021**

Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2021 recipient of the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award is Cori Nelson of Winfield Central School in Winfield, Illinois (Winfield 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 National Energy Conference for Educators. The award will be presented to Cori at the National Energy Conference hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 18-22, 2021.

Cori's nomination for this award showcased her dedication to energy education for her students. She values providing opportunities and experiences for her students and fosters a learning environment for them to ask questions and make discoveries on their own. Cori herself shares, "When the kids are having so much fun that they don't even realize they have been learning new concepts, I feel like my mission has been accomplished."

Since 2016, Cori has been involved in the Energizing Student Potential Program, which provides energy curriculum and materials for her students to put together STEM projects, conduct educational energy audits of their school, and host annual community energy fairs. The program also provides teacher trainings to expand her knowledge of energy, experiment and put into practice and learn new ideas and network with colleagues.

The excitement for learning about energy extends beyond the classroom with an afterschool Energy Club she sponsors. One year the club went into the community to explore the possibility of changing Winfield's streetlamps to energy efficient LED bulbs and even went to the village town hall meeting to present their findings. Last year, she sponsored Winfield Central School's first ever Science Olympiad team. The team earned two medals and a bid to the State Tournament.

Cori is a pleasure to work with, and always willing to lend a helping hand and positive attitude when NEED calls on her to assist with energy workshops, conferences, and student events. We're so glad she is a part of the NEED family and are honored to recognize her for this award.

Congratulations to this great energy educator and wonderful 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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