



Media Release

Lynsey McQueen, Dawson Elementary School, Jackson, Mississippi (Jackson Public Schools) 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 Lynsey McQueen of Dawson Elementary in Jackson, Mississippi (Jackson Public 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 National Energy Conference for Educators. The award will be presented to Lynsey at the National Energy Conference hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 18-22, 2021.

Lynsey shared, "As an educator, it is my daily goal to use my skills and traits of honesty and passion to guide the scholars, families, team, and communities I service. I am tremendously dedicated to bettering and furthering my tenure in education by being a lifelong learning and practicing my leadership skills daily. In all honesty, I just want to make the world a better place, no matter how big or small, for others."

Lynsey's nomination for this award noted her bubbly personality and unconventional and creative techniques to engage her class in science, which makes her a favorite teacher among many students. Not only does Lynsey create fun but challenging learning activities for her students, but you may walk into her class and see her dressed like Ms. Fizzle! She loves to make her students feel like little scientists. Her unique style of teaching has helped students grasp difficult concepts more easily, which has resulted in a tremendous increase in the school's science proficiency tests.

Her devotion to her students and community has also been inspiring. Dawson Elementary School principal Vicki Conley applauds Lynsey's change from traditional learning to virtual learning in response to COVID-19. Vicki says, "Her tireless efforts to make sure not only her students continued to receive the materials needed for remote learning, but she volunteered to assist in distributing supplies to all students."

Lynsey exemplifies many of the great qualities that Bob Thompson is remembered for in the NEED Project family. Congratulations to this great energy educator!

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.

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