



Media Release

Tyler Dufrene, Hahnville High School, Boutte, Louisiana (St. Charles Parish 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 Tyler Dufrene of Hahnville High School in Boutte, Louisiana (St. Charles Parish 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 Tyler at the National Energy Conference hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 18-22, 2021.

Tyler's nomination from his colleague Linda Thibodaux highlighted his dedication to engaging his students and his own passion for continual learning. She said, "Tyler always keeps an open mind and looks for evidenced-based strategies to differentiate his instruction. He also attends a variety of professional development sessions throughout the year so he can employ the most effective strategies in his classroom. He loves learning and finding innovative ways to engage his students." This is even more evident as Tyler earned the distinctions of the 2018 Essie Beck "Rising Star" in Science Education Award by the Louisiana Science Teachers Association and he was named the 2019 Louisiana State Secondary Teacher of the Year by LACUE.

In his own words, Tyler expresses, "Through an inquiry-based curriculum, students are afforded the opportunity for active learning, intellectual engagement, creativity, and personal accountability. I think outside-the-box to develop creative tools and/or labs to facilitate the development of a deeper conceptual understanding of the content within each of my students."

His student Kate Faucheux shared that Mr. Dufrene's passion for teaching is matched by his humbleness, friendliness, and enthusiasm. She said, "He always has a smile on his face and maintains a positive attitude. He even seeks to spread that positivity by posting a different inspirational quote each class period."

Tyler exhibits the many 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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