



Media Advisory

Carolyn Lee, Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD recognized for the Youth Energy Leadership Award.

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Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2022 Youth Energy Leadership Award to Carolyn Lee of Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, Maryland.

The Youth Energy Leadership Award was created by NEED 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 Carolyn Lee of Rockville Montgomery High School on receiving the 2022 Youth Energy Leadership Award. This award includes a \$1,500 scholarship to be used for post-high school educational plans. The award will be given at the 42nd Annual NEED Youth Awards for Energy Achievement in Washington, D.C. on June 28, 2022. This fall, Carolyn plans to attend the University of Maryland, College Park to pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

Carolyn was introduced to NEED when she attended the Exelon STEM Innovation and Leadership Academy at the University of Maryland. Academy and NEED staff noted she is one of the most active students with the STEM Academy and always offering to do more and take on leadership responsibilities. Carolyn herself says of this experience, “The Exelon STEM Academy gave me the confidence and connections to step up as a leader. I am passionate about energy and chemical engineering and being a mentee in the mentoring program has allowed me to explore pathways in these fields. I want to combine my interests in these fields to improve energy generation and efficiency. NEED has inspired me to research the question: *How can we minimize the impact of energy on the global climate?*”

In addition to a stellar academic record, Carolyn has taken a huge interest in teaching others about STEM and energy. She founded Aspire, a program allowing middle schoolers to explore STEM pathways. She has also collaborated with teachers in applying to the Global Solar Suitcase Program for local schools. Carolyn also testified at the Montgomery County (MD) Board of Education FY 2023 Budget Operations Hearing to advocate for robotics program stipends in all 209 schools across Montgomery County Public Schools.

A nomination from her chemistry teacher, Stuart Albaugh, highlights how Carolyn exhibits leadership qualities and energy knowledge by stating, “One of the many things that makes her stand out to me is her leadership skills and how she has thrived when given a position of leadership in many of our STEM-based clubs at RMHS. Over the last few years, she has worked tirelessly in our Science Olympiad, a science-based competition where students compete in events utilizing their wealth of scientific understanding ranging across many disciplines. Week in and week out, I always see her working and leading groups, motivating them and offering assistance and some quick lecture-style talks to help her teammates better understand the goal and the science behind their work.”

Carolyn possesses the outstanding leadership skills and a commitment to academics that the Youth Energy Leadership Award encompasses. NEED is thrilled to select Carolyn Lee for this award!

For more information about the NEED Project, please contact Mary E. Spruill at (703) 257-1117 or mspruill@need.org.

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