



Press Release

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Abigail John, Oswego East High School, Oswego, Illinois

Recognized for Youth Energy Leadership

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Manassas, Virginia – The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project is pleased to announce Abigail John of Oswego East High School in Oswego, Illinois is a 2025 recipient of the NEED Youth Energy Leadership Award. 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 in the teaching of others.

The award includes a \$1,500 scholarship to be used for her post-high school educational plans. Abigail plans to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to pursue an electrical engineering degree. She shares, “I’m most interested in electrical energy systems, specifically in power generation, transmission, and renewable integration. By focusing on smart grids, energy storage, and improving efficiency through circuit design and control systems, I’m excited to explore innovations in renewable energy for their potential in sustainable electrical infrastructure.”

It has been a pleasure for NEED to work with and view firsthand Abigail's leadership abilities as a student staff member at NEED's annual Youth Energy Conference and Awards in both summer of 2022 and 2023 and in her work with the Exelon Foundation STEM Academies. This June, she will serve as a student staff member at the 2025 Exelon Foundation STEM Academy in Chicago, IL, where she will receive the award.

Abigail's teachers recognized her leadership and problem-solving abilities through their nominations. Robotics coach, Amy Truemper, noted that Abigail established a high school mentoring program for middle school robotics teams that needed help. She also developed a female robotics mentoring program to allow students on different robotics teams to meet and discuss ideas for competition and to share ideas of careers to pursue in the future.

In addition to her passion for robotics, Abigail has been in the band since 2018, volunteers at her church, and works as a technician at the performing arts center in Oswego East.

Congratulations to Abigail!

For more information about the NEED Project and the NEED Youth Energy Leadership Award, please call Mary E. Spruill at (703) 257-1117, fax at (703) 257-0037 or via email to mspruill@need.org or visit:

<https://www.need.org>

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