



Media Release

Nina Corley, O'Connell College Preparatory School, Galveston, TX recognized for Excellence in Energy

For Immediate Release – May 29, 2019

Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2019 recipient of the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award is Nina Corley of O'Connell College Preparatory School in Galveston, Texas (Galveston Independent 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 Energy Conference for Educators hosted in Galveston, Texas, July 7-11, 2019. The award will be given at the 39th Annual NEED Youth Energy Conference and Awards hosted in Washington, D.C. June 24, 2019.

Her principal, Patti Abbott, describes Nina as, *"an exceptional team member, outstanding teacher, and a model of lifelong learning who has a major positive impact on students in her class and beyond."*

Nina's colleagues praise her for integrating energy across the curriculum as well as her involvement in the Galveston community. She exemplifies the "Kids Teaching Kids" philosophy. Nina's students help teach energy to elementary students, built an outdoor garden classroom, and have received recognition the past four years as a winning secondary level school for the state of Texas for their environmental projects. Her students demonstrate the science behind recycling at local museums and farmers markets and won first place at last year's Recycle Rally for their development of a recycling program.

On being nominated, Nina said, *"I thought back on fond memories of the things Bob taught me when facilitating a workshop with him, things I have brought back to my own classrooms and used many times."*

Her energy as an educator and NEED teacher is top notch! She is a pleasure to work with in any setting and exemplifies all of the great qualities that Bob Thompson is remembered for in the NEED Project family. 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.

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