



## Media Release

**Dr. Ayo Akatugba, Skyline High School, Oakland, California (Alameda County Schools) recognized for Excellence in Energy**

**For Immediate Release – April 6, 2020**

Manassas, Virginia – The NEED Project is pleased to announce the 2020 recipient of the Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award is Dr. Ayo Akatugba of Skyline High School in Oakland, California (Alameda County 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 Energy Conference for Educators hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 19-23, 2020. The award will be given at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual NEED Youth Energy Conference and Awards hosted in Washington, D.C. June 29, 2020.

Ayo's nomination detailed her this way, *"She truly understands and cares about everyone she interacts with, no matter how much work and responsibilities she has on her hands. Her role as the Green Energy Pathway Director was vital to the entire academy. Dr. Akatugba has placed a huge effort in making career exploration possible for all her students. She plans out field trips to college campuses and takes us to STEM related work areas to expose ourselves to different career options. I was able to develop my professionalism and learn more about green energy through her guidance."*

Ayo's colleague, Larry Chang, highlights how she has integrated new components to enhance her students' knowledge and skills. He says, *"Applying project-based learning, her students work in groups on designs for their "Classrooms of the Future." The students' architectural designs serve as a means to research green building materials, energy conservation strategies, and renewable energy sources."*

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](mailto:mspruill@need.org).

<http://www.NEED.org>

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