



Media Release

Erin Zackey, Edmonds Heights K-12, Edmonds, Washington (Snohomish 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 Erin Zackey of Edmonds Heights K-12 in Edmonds, Washington (Snohomish 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 40th Annual NEED Youth Energy Conference and Awards hosted in Washington, D.C. June 29, 2020.

Erin's nomination from a student's parent, Taylor Hengen Newman, highlighted the reasons why she is a worthy recipient of this award. Taylor said, *"Erin really knows how to make things fly, bubble, pop and whizz -- frankly, she's the teacher who makes science simply amazing -- and, crucially, real -- for her students, and I have no doubt her obvious caring for each of them, and for this work, are shaping a lifelong love of learning in countless kids each year."*

Erin's colleague, Cathy Webb, said of her, *"Her energy seems boundless as she not only teaches full-time in a multi-age classroom, but Erin volunteers with scout troops, community organizations, and regularly provides professional development for educators."*

In Erin's own words, *"As a teacher, I get to create classes such as, "It's Electric: The Energy Science". I get to use curriculum I think best suits the area of focus as well. For instance, after participating in the "Puget Sound Renewable Leadership Institute", I was able to generate my own lessons on hydropower, and then teach that content as well as further energy content to teach multiple courses on energy. I am very keen on student centered work, and believe that the direction we are going in terms of empowering students to share their work and be inquiry minded thoughtful science learners is a positive one, and one in which I embrace fully in my classroom."*

Erin embodies the great 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.

<http://www.NEED.org>

<https://www.need.org/educators/distinguished-service-bob-thompson-awards/>

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