



## Media Release

**Kevin Crosby, Alternative Instructional Methods (AIM) Center, Bakersfield, California (Kern County) 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 Kevin Crosby of Alternative Instructional Methods (AIM) Center in Bakersfield, California (Kern County).

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.

Kevin is in his 18<sup>th</sup> year of teaching, currently working with students who have a variety of developmental delays and struggle with academic skills. He gives his students the opportunity for exploration and discovery with visual and kinesthetic activities. Kevin started a Falcon Autistic Solar Team which helps his students explore and understand areas of science such as forms of energy, solar power, photovoltaic systems, and electricity. From baking cookies in student made solar ovens to building solar-powered cars out of LEGOs, Kevin says, *"I get to share creative lessons and innovative ideas with my students to spark their interests in environmental science. I also get the chance to teach them valuable science skills that could lead to job opportunities and independent living options for them after high school."*

A student of Kevin's, Jerimiah Johnson, says, *"My favorite activities were electricity, the battery lesson, the magnet activity, and the plasma ball experiment. I've never been very good at science, but Mr. Crosby makes the learning fun and I like the class."*

Kevin has been affiliated with NEED since 2008 - from attending local energy education workshops to our National Energy Conference and being the 2013 California Senior School of the Year at NEED's Youth Awards. We are honored to award this great energy educator. Congratulations!

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>

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

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