Jackie Nicol Receives BP Canada Award

Jackie Nicol, a Griffiths-Scott Middle School teacher, received a $5,000 award from BP Canada as part of their A+ for Energy Education Program for her “Solar Solution” project. BP Canada awards $5,000 or $10,000 in grants and scholarships to K-12 teachers across Alberta. This year BP Canada awarded 40 grants to schools in 15 different communities for teachers to implement innovative energy and energy conservation projects in their classrooms.

Her Solar Solution project will engage students in probing the impact of energy use on the environment. Students will construct solar powered cars, switch a school water fountain from electric to solar power, and test the efficiency of student built solar cookers.

The A+ for Energy program was developed to meet the needs of K-12 teachers who want to expand their core curriculum with energy education activities. In a letter announcing the awards, BP Canada stated, “With the help of Alberta teachers, it is our hope that these grants will serve as a spring board for a life-long educational journey that will inspire today’s youth to become responsible, energy-conscious adults.” To date, BP has awarded $1.5 million to 125 projects impacting over 30,000 students.

BP Canada award recipients not only received the grant but they also received a scholarship to participate in a three-day Energy Education Training Conference, held in partnership with Inside Education, in Kananaskis from August 17 – 20, 2009. The conference provided recipients with a comprehensive overview of all of the energy sources found in Alberta and supplied resources and information to help teachers to educate and inspire their students in the coming school year.

“Jackie is bringing real world experiences into the classroom and engaging students in understanding and solving the sustainability challenges we face,” said Dr. Terry Pearson, Superintendent of Schools. Pearson praised Nicol, “She is an amazing teacher who has dedicated herself to creating outstanding learning experiences for her students.”

Jackie Nicol has taught in Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools for twelve years.

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