

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School President/Principal Dr. Christine Melone is pleased to announce that through the generous support of BP's A+ for Energy Program and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, McAuley will be introducing four new exciting alternative energy education programs. With \$25,000 of support from a global energy leader like BP and \$10,000 from a local conservation group like Illinois Clean Energy Foundation, McAuley students now have new opportunities to explore the important world of energy conservation. Mother McAuley was the only high school in this area to receive three grants through the A+ for Energy Program.

“We were very excited to learn that three of our teachers were awarded grants by the A+ for Energy Program. This is a great opportunity for our students to learn about an issue of growing importance for our students, our country and our world. We are always seeking new opportunities for the young women at Mother McAuley to expand their knowledge in the area of science and build upon our high standard of learning. Dr. Iasillo, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Gordon Davis are all wonderful teachers who continuously inspire their students.”

Science Department Chairperson Dr. Roz Iasillo designed “Energize McAuley – An Alternative Energy Audit” as an opportunity for students to learn how the school uses energy, to implement energy savings, and to learn about alternative energy sources. The Audit is designed to provide real-life learning through the use of career-related teams that carry out tasks similar to professionals found in the energy industry. Through the BP A+ for Energy Program, McAuley received a \$10,000 grant to launch this new initiative.

Physics teacher Mr. Robert Thomas developed “Converting Solar and Wind Energy to Electricity” as a research project for his Physics Honors students. Approximately 100 students will work in teams to build and collect data from wind and solar energy kits, convert the energy into electricity and conduct experiments using different variables to try and obtain the most power from the energy sources. Mother McAuley received a \$5,000 grant from the BP A+ for Energy Program in support of this project.

Mrs. Kathleen Gordon Davis, chairperson of McAuley's Art Department, developed “Connections: Energy, Visual Arts and Our Environment; and Our Environment” as an interdisciplinary project with the Science Department. Students in the Studio Art and Advanced Placement Art classes will work with the Environmental Science students to create visual art pieces directly related to the study of energy and alternative sources. The students will

concentrate their study on five sources of renewable energy: solar, wind, geothermal, tides and hydroelectric. The visual art piece will be displayed in an art exhibition. In order to develop this unique concept, BP's A+ for Energy Program awarded McAuley a \$10,000 grant.

BP's A+ for Energy program awarded a total of \$750,000 in grants and scholarship to seventy Chicagoland projects. The A+ for Energy program was created to recognize innovative energy education activities in the classroom. Awardees receive a grant to implement their program, a full scholarship to attend a three-day Energy Educator Training Conference, and a Science of Energy kit and other classroom materials valued at \$500. BP, a global energy provider, sponsors this unique program, designed to empower teachers with resources and tools to implement creative projects that excite and educate students about energy and energy conservation.

Mother McAuley will also be installing a solar panel on the roof of its science wing thanks to the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The installation of the solar panel will be an extension of the A+ for Energy projects. The focus of the project is to educate students regarding alternative energy sources for a sustainable way of life. The Small-Scale Solar PV program will provide a thorough introduction to solar energy, while challenging students to develop ways to constructively and economically use the energy. As an added benefit, the electricity generated by the solar panel will operate the exhaust fans in the Science Wing of the school.

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation launched its Small-Scale Solar PV Program for K-12 Schools in 2006 to introduce the energy future to today's students. The program provides grants up to \$10,000 of the cost of installing a new 1kW photovoltaic (PV) system to convert sunlight into electric power. Although small, each system will generate free electricity. To enhance the educational value of the system, online monitoring to provide real-time data on the amount of electricity generated is included as part of the grant. Students see first-hand on a daily basis how sunlight is converted into electricity.