

NEWS RELEASE

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOTHER MCAULEY'S DR. ROZ IASILLO NAMED A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School Science Department Chairperson Dr. Roz Iasillo (center) has been recognized as a 2009 Honoree by the National Women's History Month Project. This year's Women's History Month theme, *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet*, encourages the



recognition of the important work of women in the on-going “green movement.”

Dr. Iasillo was nominated by her students Genesis Dunord, Katie Moloney, Caitlin Richards, and Jackie Rowley. In their description of Dr. Iasillo's work they wrote, “She developed the first environmental science class taught at the secondary level in Illinois. She has influenced and inspired thousands of her students to live sustainable lives and be good stewards of the earth's resources by volunteering at community clean-up days, prairie seed collecting, and the yearly removal of non-native plants from local forest preserves. Her enthusiasm and commitment to our earth is boundless.”

In addition to being in charge of the McAuley Science department, Dr. Iasillo teaches Biology and Environmental Science. Last year, Dr. Iasillo received a \$10,000 grant from the BP's A+ for Energy Program for her “Energize McAuley – An Alternative

Energy Audit.” This energy audit gave students an opportunity to learn how the school uses energy, implement energy savings, and to learn about alternative energy sources.

Dr. Iasillo is an adjunct science professor at Robert Morris College and has recently been a guest lecturer for Lucent Technology, The Railroad Retirement Board, and the Social Security Administration Civil Rights Division. In 2002, the National Science Teachers Association selected her as a Key Leader in the Building a Presence for Science programs. Dr. Iasillo has been identified among the elite teachers of science in the state and provides leadership to other schools hoping to improve the science education of all students.

The 2009 Women’s History Month Honorees are women whose courageous, pioneering, and innovative leadership are helping to save our planet. They include scientists, engineers, business leaders, writers, filmmakers, conservationists, teachers, community organizers, religious or workplace leaders. There are over one hundred Honorees and their achievements and accomplishments span three centuries and seven generations.

This national celebration and recognition of women's historic achievements began in 1980 when National Women's History Week was proclaimed by Presidential Proclamation. In 1987, this national celebration was expanded by Congressional Resolution to an entire month by declaring March as National Women's History Month. National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the general public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary society. Establishing this focal celebration has encouraged schools to introduce new curriculum, and communities to recognize women who have been pivotal in their own communities.

For more information about National Women's History Month or for full list of the 2009 National Women's History Month Honorees, visit www.nwhp.org.