



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Duke Energy educational grant to provide a pathway to engineering careers for Lake County Schools students**

*Funding will help engage Leesburg and East Ridge High School students in compelling, real-world challenges that encourage collaboration and problem-solving.*

LEESBURG – Engineering Pathways, a Lake County Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that empowers students to step into the role of an engineer who utilizes a problem-solving mindset, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation.

The grant, which was awarded to the Education Foundation of Lake County, will help fund the Leesburg High School program to design, construct and learn to fly drones. It will also help underwrite the East Ridge High School program where students learn to convert mini refrigerators from electric to solar power.

The District's CTE programs provide students with hands on training and classroom instruction to prepare them to earn industry certifications. Students in the Engineer Pathways programs may earn Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (RECF) Pre-Engineering Certification and/or RECF Robotics Certification.

"According to CTE curriculum developer Applied Education Systems, 91% of high school graduates who earned two to three CTE credits go on to enroll in college," said Diane Kornegay, Lake County Schools Superintendent. "We also know that the engineering industry is seeking additional talent and diversity within its professional ranks. We expect an increased number of minority students will consider a career in engineering as a result of their participation in the Engineering Pathways CTE programs."

The Duke Energy grant made to the Education Foundation of Lake County, the direct support organization for Lake County Schools, is one of 23 grants – totaling \$653,000 – that the energy company is investing in science, technology, engineering and math education programs, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion awareness across Florida.

"Building a brighter future begins with providing students with the best education and opportunities for success," said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. "These grants are an investment in our communities and will strengthen and support those who are educating our next generation."

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**About the Duke Energy Foundation**

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The Foundation contributes more than \$30 million annually in charitable gifts and is funded by Duke Energy shareholder dollars. More information about the Foundation and its Powerful Communities program can be found at [duke-energy.com/foundation](http://duke-energy.com/foundation).

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest energy holding companies in the U.S. It employs 30,000 people and has an electric generating capacity of 51,000 megawatts through its regulated utilities, and 3,000 megawatts through its nonregulated Duke Energy Renewables unit.

**About the Education Foundation of Lake County**

Established in 1987, Education Foundation of Lake County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and designated direct support organization for Lake County Schools. Our mission is to serve as the connection between our community and public education, evaluating needs and securing resources to enhance the quality of education. The Education Foundation of Lake County operates for the benefit of students and teachers in Lake County Public Schools.

Education Foundation of Lake County is ranked among the Top 50 Education Foundations in the United States by the Caruthers Institute. For more info, please visit [EdFoundationLake.com](http://EdFoundationLake.com).

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