



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Carman Cullen  
352-504-5327  
cullen-battc@lake.k12.fl.us

For Immediate Release – July 26, 2022

### **Education Foundation of Lake County to power Lake County schools with \$10,000 grant from Duke Energy Foundation**

*Funding will help Lake County students in support of robotics programs and scrimmages throughout the school year.*

LEESBURG – The Education Foundation of Lake County received a \$10,000 grant from Duke Energy Foundation to create powerful communities in Lake County by helping to close the equity gap through robotics.

The Duke Energy grant made to the Education Foundation of Lake County, the direct support organization for Lake County Schools, is one of 22 grants – totaling \$641,000 – that the utility company is investing in science, technology, engineering and math education programs, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion awareness across Florida.

“At our fourth annual VEX robotics scrimmage, teams from across the district will gain experience in math, coding, and engineering in a hands-on environment. By providing students with the opportunity to scrimmage against other teams in Lake County, we are closing the equity gap and giving students an opportunity to use their engineering skills in a competition setting,” said Carman Cullen-Batt, Executive Director of the Education Foundation of Lake County. “The scrimmages, which will take place in October 2022, will comprise of 32 elementary and middle school teams. The VEX robotics competition format will be followed and a VEX coordinator will assist with the event.”

“By investing in our local education foundations and the programs that ensure all students have access to robust STEM education, we are helping to create a vibrant economy,” said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. “Duke Energy is proud to support these programs

and help even more students gain the hands-on, essential skills needed to pursue energy and engineering careers and become the next generation of leaders and problem solvers.”

The Duke Energy Foundation’s Powerful Communities program makes strategic investments to build powerful communities where our natural resources thrive, students can excel and a talented workforce drives economic prosperity for all. The Foundation annually funds more than \$30 million to communities throughout Duke Energy’s seven-state service area.

###

#### **About the Duke Energy Foundation**

The Duke Energy Foundation provides more than \$30 million annually in philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The foundation is funded by Duke Energy shareholders.

#### **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.

The 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).

###