



Contact: Kristine Concepcion
Office: 407-531-1212 ext. 2034
KConcepcion@careersourcecf.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2018

Duke Energy Powers CareerSource Central Florida's New Test Prep Initiative

\$10K Grant Lights the Path to Greater Success for Technicians

Orlando, Fla. – CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF) has received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from Duke Energy as part of the power company's foundation to "build powerful communities." The grant will be coupled with in-kind services provided by CSCF to create a free, two-week Construction and Skilled Trades (CAST) test prep program. The Duke Energy Foundation awards over \$30 million in charitable grants each year as part of its commitment to make strategic investments that build powerful communities where nature and wildlife thrive, students can excel, and a talented workforce drives economic prosperity for all.

"Prep for Power" is a new, customized curriculum that will be available to thirty selected job seekers in underserved populations who have a proven interest in the power technician field. "The core focus of Duke Energy's investments is to make a sustainable impact within our communities," said Duke Energy Community Relations Manager & CSCF Board Chair, Debbie Clements. "Being socially responsible is a large part of what has allowed us to remain one of the largest electric power holding companies in the United States."

"Prep for Power" aligns with the specific needs of the electric power industry and includes both hands-on and classroom training components, as well as test-taking strategies and tutoring to help students successfully pass the CAST test. CSCF will partner with power industry subject matter experts and educators to create the curriculum and ensure participants are equipped to pass the CAST test required to gain employment in this high-growth industry.

"As electricity continues to power our lives, it also powers incredible career opportunities that come with higher wages and career paths to even greater success," said CSCF President & CEO, Pamela Nabors. "Our plan is to grow the program and eventually enroll more students throughout the year, thus empowering more job seekers, filling the needs of CAST industry employers and reducing per-person program costs."

CSCF continues to pipeline careers by assessing the needs of career seekers and businesses and strategically craft innovative methods to obtain success. Partners like Duke Energy allow CSCF to continue making Central Florida the best destination for talent.

CareerSource Central Florida prepares Central Florida residents for careers which meet local businesses' needs, by providing tools to businesses and career seekers in Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties to advance their professional standing. Tailored services to local businesses include job posting and recruitment, retention, labor market data, and training. Services for career seekers include career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, and internships. For more information, visit www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com.