

Press Release

The Science Center
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Duke Energy Invests \$50K to Establish a Cutting-Edge 3D Printing Lab

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 16, 2016) – Duke Energy, the largest electric power holding company in the United States, has donated \$50,000 to establish a state-of-the-art 3D printing lab at the Science Center.

This funding enables the Science Center to create a 3D printing (also known as Additive Manufacturing) training program to help close skill gaps within the Manufacturing sector. The program will offer a balance of “in-school” learning with hands-on design and printing of objects containing moving parts without assembly.

“Duke Energy places a strong focus on growing Florida’s economy by partnering with our economic development partners to attract and expand businesses in our local communities,” said Alex Glenn, Duke Energy state president – Florida. “A major driver in a company’s site selection decision is the availability of a skilled workforce. Our partnership with CareerSource Pinellas, through the Duke Energy Foundation grant, enables local residents to participate in training programs in the demanding fields of soldering and 3-D printing to land opportunities with businesses in the Tampa Bay community.”

Businesses are seeing the increased demand for the technology, as they strive to find a workforce that has a deep knowledge of 3D printing. According to the Wohlers Report 2015, the worldwide 3D printing industry is expected to grow from \$3.07B in revenue in 2013 to \$12.8B by 2018, and exceed \$21B in worldwide revenue by 2020.

The Science Center has long stood as a conduit for workforce development and training for the community in addition to the impact it has upon the K-12 youth within Pinellas County. By exposing youth to the marvels of 3D printing, the Science Center aims to pique the interest of young minds and assist in the development of interest in STEM occupations.

“As it evolves, 3D printing technology is destined to transform almost every major industry and change the way we live, work, and play in the future,” states Ed Peachey, President and CEO of WorkNet Pinellas. “We are very grateful for Duke Energy’s generous investment in this valuable program and the future workforce.”

The 3D Printing program is anticipated to launch in May 2016. In addition to the 3D Printing Lab, a portion of the gift will support costs associated with the Soldering and Cabling program at the Science Center.

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About The Science Center

The Center is located on seven acres in west St. Petersburg. Each year the Center educates school children through field trip classes; offers winter, spring and summer workshops; and takes science education courses to the community. To learn more about the Science Center's offerings, visit www.sciencecenterofpinellas.org.

Duke Energy Florida

Duke Energy Florida owns coal-fired and natural gas generation providing about 9,000 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 1.7 million customers in a 13,000-square-mile service area.

With its Florida regional headquarters located in St. Petersburg, Fla., Duke Energy is the largest electric power holding company in the United States. Its regulated utility operations serve approximately 7.3 million electric customers located in six states in the Southeast and Midwest. Its commercial power and international energy business segments own and operate diverse power generation assets in North America and Latin America, including a growing portfolio of renewable energy assets in the United States.

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 250 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com.

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