

Press Release



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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kimberly Williams, CareerSource Pinellas
(813) 397-2085 / kwilliams@careersourcepinellas.com

Peveeta Persaud, Duke Energy
727-820-5592 / Peveeta.Persaud@duke-energy.com

VICTORIES FOR VETERANS GRANT SUPPORTS SERVICES FOR VETERANS TRANSITIONING BACK INTO THE WORKFORCE

Pinellas County, FL – Since October 2016, CareerSource Pinellas' Veteran Services program has served nearly 400 veterans with significant barriers to employment with assistance from a \$10,000 Victories for Veterans grant. Awarded by Duke Energy in partnership with the Tampa Bay Rays, the funding provides immediate, flexible, transitional supportive services customized to meet the needs of the individual veteran.

Each day, CareerSource Pinellas staff provides assistance to veterans who are interested in training for a new career, or upgrading their current skills to be more competitive in today's workforce. Services include preparation for interviews and obtaining employment through job referral and matching services, job development and training, and career management. In addition, there are supportive services available to veterans with barriers to employment such as transportation, food, clothing, a trip to the barber, work uniforms or boots, etc.

"Often veterans receiving services are in difficult situations due to a series of unforeseen circumstances, unanticipated barriers and/or other issues," states Ed Peachey, President and CEO of CareerSource Pinellas. "The Victory for Veterans grant has allowed our organization to serve a greater number of veterans helping them overcome these challenges and improve the quality of their lives."

Funding from Victories for Veterans also supports employability skill workshops to develop a career plan, assist with resume development, provide opportunities for pre-vocational training, and help ensure veterans are prepared for interviews and career fairs. In October 40 veterans attended 85 employability skill workshops and nearly 250 veterans attended a recent career fair where they received priority of service.

For every game the Rays won this season, the Duke Energy Foundation committed to contribute \$1,000 to charities that support veterans in our community. The funding requests were so impactful; Duke Energy went above and beyond and is investing \$90,600 in 10 area non-profits through the Victories for Veterans program.

"Serving our communities is an integral part of Duke Energy's culture and we are especially honored to help support our veterans through employee volunteer events, by actively hiring veterans—we employ nearly 2,000 veterans at Duke Energy—and through initiatives like this," said Alex Glenn, state president, Duke Energy – Florida. "The organizations that are benefiting from the 'Victories for Veterans' program offer invaluable services to local veterans and we are proud to invest in them."

The implementation of this initiative is in direct response to the needs of veterans who are seeking and are in need of transitional supportive services. The potential impact of this project is critical and life changing for veterans. It is an opportunity to enable veterans to overcome transitional issues to pursue activities that can lead to a better self-supporting future.

On December 6th, CareerSource Pinellas will present "10 Steps to a Federal Job" workshop. This intensive, all-day workshop will prepare veterans for applying for federal positions by focusing on the required resume format, application process and networking. The instructor will also provide information on additional

formatting styles to prepare the veterans for other employment opportunities. The event will be held December 6th from 9:00am – 4:00pm at the Tyrone career center located at 7701 22nd Ave North in St. Petersburg.

To learn more about CareerSource Pinellas' services for veterans, please visit www.careersourcepinellas.com or stop by one of career centers located throughout Pinellas County to speak with a full-time staff member trained and dedicated to helping all eligible, qualified veterans in their career goals.

About CareerSource Pinellas

CareerSource Pinellas establish workforce development and training policies for Pinellas County. For more information on our valuable, no cost resources for businesses and job seekers, please visit www.careersourcepinellas.com.

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About the Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to address the needs of the communities where its customers live and work. In 2015, the foundation provided more than \$30 million in charitable gifts. The foundation's education focus spans kindergarten to career, particularly science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), early childhood literacy and workforce development. It also supports the environment and community impact initiatives, including arts and culture.

Duke Energy employees and retirees actively contribute to their communities as volunteers and leaders at a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. Duke Energy is committed to building on its legacy of community service. For more information, visit <http://www.duke-energy.com/foundation>.

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is an S&P 100 Stock Index company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available at <http://duke-energy.com>.

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