



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2007

## Futures for Kids Receives Support from the Progress Energy Foundation to Foster Career Exploration

**Raleigh, NC**—Futures for Kids (F4K) is helping North Carolina's students explore their options for the future, and the Progress Energy Foundation is lending its support with a \$15,000 grant.

Through F4K, students have the opportunity to discover how their passions and interests can translate into career choices, and what they can start doing now to pursue that goal. In addition, students can then connect with online mentors in a certain profession to seek advice or with companies in that industry, locally and statewide, to learn about the hiring requirements for the various positions. This also helps connect the students with potential future employers.

"F4K is a strong workforce development tool that provides a pipeline for recruiting in an industry where finding qualified candidates coming out of high school isn't always easy," said Jackie D'Ercole, Manager of Corporate Recruiting for Progress Energy. "Much of [our] workforce is made up of talented individuals that work in skilled trades and technical positions, and F4K allows us to connect with those students who are interested in these types of positions so we can help them take the next step."

F4K is already available to all of Wake County's middle and high school students, as well as those in 21 other school systems across the state, and the Progress Energy Foundation grant will make sure these students have continued access to the program in the coming school year.

"The fact is there are a wealth of careers our kids don't even know about," said Susan Milliken, Executive Director for Futures for Kids. "F4K helps kids discover their unique interests and receive support from local companies and professionals based on those interests."

Futures for Kids is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was created to bridge the gap between the hopes and dreams of our students and the workforce development needs of our communities. F4K is currently in 22 school systems across North Carolina, including every middle and high school in Wake County, and hopes to move statewide this year with the help of the General Assembly and businesses in North Carolina. For more information or to volunteer, please visit: [www.f4k.org](http://www.f4k.org).

Progress Energy, headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., is a Fortune 250 energy company with more than 21,000 megawatts of generation capacity and \$10 billion in annual revenues. The company includes two major utilities that serve more than 3.1 million customers in the Carolinas and

Florida. Progress Energy is the 2006 recipient of the Edison Electric Institute's Edison Award, the industry's highest honor, in recognition of its operational excellence. The company also is the first utility to receive the prestigious J.D. Power and Associates Founder's Award for customer service. Progress Energy serves two fast-growing areas of the country, and the company is pursuing a balanced approach to meeting the future energy needs of the region. That balance includes increased energy efficiency programs, investments in renewable energy technologies and a state-of-the-art electricity system. For more information about Progress Energy, visit the company's Web site at [www.progress-energy.com](http://www.progress-energy.com).

Progress Energy invests in nonprofit partners in Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina to improve the quality of life for both customers and employees. Grants focus on education, the environment, economic development and employee involvement. During 2006, Progress Energy invested over \$12 million in the communities served by Progress Energy.

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