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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Progress Energy to Enhance Math, Science, and Energy Education in the School District of Osceola County

July 17, 2008—Kissimmee, FL: The Progress Energy Foundation has generously awarded a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to the Education Foundation~Osceola County. This grant will be matched with other funding for a total grant of \$50,000. Debbie Clements from Progress Energy presented the check to Kathy Carr, Executive Director of the Education Foundation. The event took place at The School District of Osceola County's school board meeting on June 17, 2008.

Progress Energy's Energize Me grant will fund a program to offer competitive mini-grants of \$2,500 each to math and science teachers who wish to motivate and increase the interest of students in math, science, and energy education. Each mini-grant will be reviewed by a committee comprised of Education Foundation board members, members of a science and math network, educators, and people from the community. The highest scoring proposals will receive funding. By distributing funds in this manner each school and department will have an opportunity to compete for supplementary funds. Sunshine State Standards will provide direction for student learning of both math and science content and processes. Grade level expectations are recommended by the state, and will become the basis for state assessments. These mini-grants sponsored by Progress Energy will not only improve the learning environment but will also increase the population receiving benefits from the program.

Progress Energy Florida, a subsidiary of Progress Energy (NYSE: PGN), provides electricity and related services to 1.7 million customers in Florida. The company is headquartered in St. Petersburg, Fla., and serves a territory encompassing more than 20,000 square miles including the cities of St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as the Central Florida area surrounding Orlando. Progress Energy Florida 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.

The **Education Foundation~Osceola County** is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting public education, teachers, and students. Led by a 40 member board of directors, the Foundation awarded over

one-hundred ninety \$2,000 scholarships in 2008 to Osceola County graduates. Other important accomplishments include matching children with mentors through the Take Stock in Children and Bookmark Buddies programs, providing classroom supplies to needy students and eligible teachers at no cost through a teacher free store, as well as providing classroom project grants and hosting special appreciation events for Osceola County educators and students. Visit our Web site at www.foundationosceola.org for more information about the Education Foundation~Osceola County and it's programs.

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