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myFutureNC 706 Hillsborough Street, Suite 100 Raleigh, NC 27603 www.myfuturenc.org

Contact: Cecilia Holden, President & CEO communications@myfuturenc.org

myFutureNC awarded \$200,000 grant by Duke Energy Foundation; nonprofit welcomes funder as latest strategic partner

Raleigh, NC, Friday July 24, 2020 -- myFutureNC is honored to have been awarded a \$200,000 grant by Duke Energy Foundation in support of its education and workforce initiatives in North Carolina. In the last five years, the Foundation has invested more than \$19 million in education and workforce initiatives in North Carolina.

"myFutureNC is thankful for the strong leadership and commitment made by the Duke Energy Foundation," said Dale Jenkins, myFutureNC Board Chair. "Not only are we pleased to have the Foundation as a funder, but also as a strategic partner focused on making a positive impact on education and workforce in our state." Cecilia Holden, CEO and President of myFutureNC further commented "The value of a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree has only been elevated by the recent pandemic and subsequent economic downturn. Postsecondary education is the critical path forward for our economy's short-term recovery and long-term sustainability."

"At Duke Energy, we recognize the importance of expanding access to workforce training opportunities in the communities we serve, especially those that are underserved," said Stephen De May, Duke Energy's North Carolina president. "We look forward to working with these organizations to build the diverse workforce North Carolina needs to be a strong, successful economic engine."

On Feb. 20, 2019, myFutureNC unveiled its goal and bold vision for the future of education in the state – that by 2030, 2 million North Carolinians ages 25-44 have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree. myFutureNC is a nonprofit organization working to prepare North Carolina for the future by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and ensuring its economic viability in a global economy. The organization is working across sectors and in communities throughout the state to close gaps in postsecondary attainment, to promote alignment between educational programming and business/industry needs, and to ultimately improve the quality of educational opportunities for all North Carolinians.