



STEM Classroom Makeovers

We're breaking down barriers to opportunity by empowering the next generation of leaders, thinkers and innovators.



At NextEra Energy, Inc. (NEE) we're working together with the communities we serve at Gulf Power Company (GPC) and Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) to help make Florida an even better place to live, work and raise a family. We do this by supporting K-12 teacher professional development, as well as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education initiatives. We believe that having effective teachers and providing STEM exposure will prepare today's students for exciting and well-paying jobs in the future.

With FPL support and funding, H.L. Watkins Middle School – a once poor performing Title 1 school in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. – was able to create its Math, Science and Robotics Academy. This allowed

students to experience a nurturing environment and the opportunity to excel in and master fundamental skills needed to succeed in careers involving engineering and science. FPL's funding helped the school outfit and remodel two classrooms into a STEM robotics lab and enabled its teacher to receive specialized robotics training at Carnegie Mellon University, ranked one of the top universities in the world for Computer Science and Information Systems studies.

In many cases, STEM and robotics programs help break down barriers and provide more opportunities to traditionally underserved populations by opening the door for these students to discover their interests in science and engineering.

And we are seeing real results. Near H.L. Watkins Middle School is Suncoast High School, annually ranked among the top public schools in the country. Before FPL invested in its robotics academy, no student from H.L. Watkins Middle School had ever gone to Suncoast. Within just two years after the robotics lab opened, nearly 20 students applied to attend Suncoast and all of them were accepted.

This is one example of FPL's steadfast commitment to supporting STEM programs throughout the communities we serve. Through partnerships like the one with H.L. Watkins Middle School, we are helping to empower the next generation of innovators.

For more information about Classroom Makeover Grants, visit: [FPL.com/classroomgrant](https://www.fpl.com/classroomgrant)