



### **TVA Awards \$5,000 Grants To Both Milam, THS**

**TUPELO, Miss.** — Community partnerships have been key for the Tupelo Public School District in recent years, and the Tennessee Valley Authority continued the favorable trend with \$5,000 grants to both Milam Elementary and the Tupelo Career-Technical Center to enhance STEM education.

Milam will put its money toward littleBits coding tools to educate students on electronic engineering and design concepts through art, circuitry, coding, computer technology, math and science. The Career-Technical Center, located on the high school campus, will use its \$5,000 for a “Stem Career Exploration Camp” slated for May 28-29 and June 1-2.

“This is the second year we offered this program to the entire Valley and we saw a major increase in grant applications this year,” TVA Community Engagement Senior Program Manager Rachel Crickmar said. “There is a demand in the Valley for workforce development through STEM education, and I am proud of the way TVA and our retirees are responding to that demand by supporting teachers in the classroom.”

The grants are a part of \$600,000 in competitive STEM grants awarded to 142 schools across TVA’s service territory.

“We are so thankful for this grant,” Career-Technical Center director Evet Topp said. “We are so excited to launch these camps and see what our students learn.”

The competitive grant program provided teachers an opportunity to apply for funding up to \$5,000 and preference was given to grant applications that explored TVA’s primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic and career development and community problem solving. Schools receiving grant funding must receive their power from a TVA distributor.

“The littleBits tools that will be purchased with the TVA funded grant ‘Building Circuits Bit by Bit’ allow students creative freedom to learn, experiment, build and program using electronic design to solve real world problems,” Milam teacher Laura Sheffield said.