

Employees Spread Message to Students

Cythia Ghosten observed the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday telling children in Knoxville why King is one of her heroes. Ghosten, a consultant in Leadership Development, visited Knoxville's Christenberry Elementary School, one of TVA's Partners In Education schools.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for us to share information about TVA's contributions to this area, as well as share information about one of the most influential and notable figures in American history," says Ghosten. Ghosten joined Vyrone Cravanas, manager of Diversity Development, and members of TVA's Regional Diversity Council in presentations to students across the Tennessee Valley.

"I can't think of any better way to serve our community than to reach out to our youth and engage them in the pursuit of academic excellence, discussions about career opportunities at TVA, and a philosophy of inclusion and valuing others that TVA's Diversity Development is trying to incorporate at TVA," Cravanas said.

Students at the Tennessee School for the Deaf received a presentation from TVA nuclear engineer Scott Krepel, who is deaf, used King's struggles with adversity as a parallel with what the students face as deaf children in a hearing world. Krepel says the students were full of questions about his education and training, his career at TVA and other deaf employees in the agency.

"This is very much in the spirit of King's vision, because it ultimately extended beyond the simple facts of segregation, by addressing the structural issues in our society that prevent complete inclusion and equality," says Krepel.