

THE LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE HEALTH CARE CLINIC EXPANSION – NORTH WALTON COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) is the nation's largest medical college and the only academic health center among the osteopathic colleges. Founded in Erie, Pennsylvania in 1992 to help meet the need for physicians in underserved areas, LECOM's mission is to prepare students to become osteopathic physicians, pharmacy practitioners, and dentists through programs of excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community service.

U.S. News & World Report ranks LECOM as the most applied to medical college in the country, among the top ten medical colleges graduating the most primary care physicians and reports that the College offers one of the lowest tuitions among all private medical colleges in the United States.

LECOM believes the community is our campus. LECOM serves as an integrated, comprehensive academic health system dedicated to healthcare education, and whole person, lifelong patient care. LECOM strives to improve the health and quality of life of all people, providing services to medically underserved areas, many of which are culturally diverse in terms of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic composition.

Over the past 25 years, LECOM has expanded geographically and programmatically, and has gained national prominence. In Florida alone, LECOM has invested in excess of \$70 Million to establish the 60-acre Bradenton Campus. The initial \$40 Million capital investment in 2004 created the nation's first branch campus of an Osteopathic Medical School. In 2007, LECOM added its School of Pharmacy and in 2012 invested an additional \$40 million to create its School of Dentistry. In Walton County, LECOM invested over \$5.3 million in the project, including over \$2.8 million in building improvements, and over \$1.4 million in state-of-the-art equipment.

Since its inception in Florida, LECOM has educated and trained over 1,600 Osteopathic Physicians, 786 Pharmacists and 200 Dentists to live and serve in our communities.

LECOM proposes to partner with local government and other area stakeholders to establish additional health care facilities in DeFuniak Springs, FL that will serve residents of Walton County and other underserved surrounding areas. The project will include a 10,000 SF ambulatory care clinic, featuring a pharmaceutical lab and dental facilities, staffed with physicians, clinical pharmacists, and dentists, working inter-professionally alongside LECOM students from the College of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, and School of Dental Medicine. This collaborative effort will meet the State's goal of supporting programs at area educational institutions and research facilities that prepare students for future occupations in the medical field, supplying transferable, sustainable skills in high demand professions while providing much needed health care services to area residents.

Attached is a snapshot of the substantial economic impact LECOM has had on the State of Florida. The LECOM Health System economic impact that includes its impact in Pennsylvania is available upon request.

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(i) Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast

LECOM seeks a total of \$3,613,735.07 from Triumph Gulf Coast. This request is based upon the following estimated project costs:

TOTAL BUILDING COSTS					
10,000 sq. ft. ambulatory care clinic with pharmaceutical lab and dental facilities					\$1,448,051.07
EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION COSTS					
	UNIT COST		NUMBER		TOTAL COST
"pod" with 4 dental chairs	\$142,683.77		1		\$142,684.00
dental x-ray equipment	\$120,000.00		1		\$120,000.00
pharmaceutical lab equipment	\$40,000.00		1		\$40,000.00
INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY COSTS					
IT connectivity and maintenance					\$400,000.00
ANNUAL PERSONNEL COSTS					
	BASE	BENEFITS	ANNUAL	NUMBER	TOTAL COST
physicians	\$175,000.00	\$57,750.00	\$232,750.00	2	\$465,500.00
additional healthcare professionals	\$30,000.00	\$9,900.00	\$39,900.00	2	\$79,800.00
clinical pharmacists	\$120,000.00	\$39,600.00	\$159,600.00	2	\$319,200.00
support staff	\$30,000.00	\$9,900.00	\$39,900.00	1	\$39,900.00
dentists	\$150,000.00	\$49,500.00	\$199,500.00	2	\$399,000.00
dental assistants	\$30,000.00	\$9,900.00	\$39,900.00	4	\$159,600.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE =					\$3,613,735.07

(ii) Amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program

LECOM will leverage available resources to maximize funding received from Triumph Gulf Coast. LECOM will work with local government and other area stakeholders as a public/private partnership. Collaborators include, but are not limited to: Walton County, Walton County Sherriff, Veterans Lodge and other area academic institutions and health care facilities.

(iii) Location of the project or program

The proposed project would be located in North Walton County, in DeFuniak Springs, FL, either on LECOM’s existing property, where the Dental Offices are currently located, or in another location within Walton County in order to leverage resources in collaboration with other entities that may also qualify for funding from Triumph Gulf Coast.

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(iv) Summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties

LECOM proposes to establish additional health care facilities in DeFuniak Springs, FL to serve residents of Walton County and other underserved surrounding areas. The project will include a 10,000 square foot ambulatory care clinic, featuring a pharmaceutical lab and dental facilities, staffed with physicians, clinical pharmacists, and dentists, working inter-professionally alongside LECOM students from the College of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, and School of Dental Medicine.

The clinic staff will include two full-time physicians and two full-time supporting health care professionals. At least two senior medical students will rotate each month, for a total of 24 LECOM medical students rotating through the site each year. In addition to physicians, the clinic will be staffed with two full-time clinical pharmacists and one full-time support staff member, who would also work with LECOM pharmacy students who would join the team for six-week periods. There would also be two full-time dentists, four full-time dental assistants, and four year-long dental student residents working in the dental facilities included within the clinic.

The proposed clinic's dental facilities would include a "pod" of four chairs, complete with all standard equipment and tools, including dental x-ray equipment, necessary to enable dental screenings and other routine procedures. Patients would be referred to the existing LECOM Dental Offices in DeFuniak Springs for more complex procedures. When LECOM opened the Dental Offices, the institution invested over \$5.3 million in the project, including over \$2.8 million in building improvements, and over \$1.4 million in state-of-the-art equipment. The Dental Offices have a total of 30 dental chairs.

As part of this proposed project, the LECOM School of Pharmacy would pilot a new "satellite" campus model that would provide an additional site for students to attend classes in-person, overseen by faculty facilitators on-site, through an online broadcast of lectures from the Erie campus. Students would have access to the pharmaceutical lab in order to complete aspects of the curriculum requiring lab work. This new model would significantly increase the impact of LECOM's School of Pharmacy graduates in Walton county and surrounding areas.

LECOM's proposed expansion meets the requirements of Chapter 288.8017, Florida Statutes, that include accredited academic institutions that prepare students for future occupations in the medical field. LECOM's existing facility is a key regional asset. The expansion of its services, coupled with training and retaining skilled physicians, pharmacists and dentists will increase access to care and enhance the quality of life for area residents.

(v) Summary timeline for the proposed project or program

Upon approval, LECOM is prepared to begin project implementation immediately. This will include, but not be limited to, total project realization, including architect plans, facility build out, accreditation submission, and a tentative project completion of one to two years from the date of approval.