

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of potential ideas for projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Bay District Schools – Rutherford High School

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Rutherford High School is a part of Bay District Schools serving over 1000 students annually representing a diverse sector of the county. Programs offered includes Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), Honors as well as Career and Technical Education. Bay County Schools, governed by an elected five-member board, responsible for setting school policies which are designed with the goal of delivering the best possible education to each child. Bay District Schools is led by Superintendent William V. Husfelt, III. The district is comprised of 47 schools: 5 high schools, 6 middle schools, 2 combined grade level schools (K-8, K-12), 3 special purpose schools, 1 adult technical school, 10 charter schools and 1 virtual school. The entire school system has a total membership of 27,784 students from Pre-K to 12th grade.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: William V. Husfelt, III
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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Gulf Coast State College, Florida State University- Panama City, Bay Education Foundation, GKN, Eastern Shipbuilding, Gulf Power, Bay County Chamber of Commerce, Bay Economic Development Alliance, Career Source Gulf Coast

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In a maximum of three (3) pages, please describe the proposed project or program, including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (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, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be scored, and then considered for award in the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

MANUFACTURING ACADEMY EXPANSION:

WELDING WORKFORCE TRAINING LAB

Executive Summary

Bay District Schools, with its educational partners, is committed to providing transformational change in workforce training and education in Bay County and throughout the Northwest Florida region. The proposed project is the expansion of the first Manufacturing Academy in Bay County that was established in 2015, to include a Welding Workforce Training Lab. This project leverages a previous regional investment by the Northwest Florida Manufacturers Council and existing articulation agreements for industry certifications from Florida Colleges. The addition of a Welding Workforce Training Lab to the Manufacturing Academy, diversifies options for all Bay county high schoolers to choose a program that has a training pathway toward a meaningful career. This program will also serve one of the most racially and socioeconomically diverse student populations in the district with over 60% qualifying for free/reduced lunch.

The proposed Welding Workforce Training Lab will be an entry point for training that is aligned to opportunities in local industry who are growing and are in need of welders who are ready to work. An example of such growth is when *Eastern Shipbuilding* (2016), a local commercial shipbuilder, landed a record \$10.5 billion contract to build two dozen new U.S. Coast Guard cutters bringing over 2,000 jobs to the county. To ensure that residents have an opportunity to be candidates for such positions, a local training pathway must be available starting at the high school level. This Welding Lab diversifies the current offerings that include Construction and Manufacturing (Production Technician and Design), creating an area on the campus that can be considered a “Manufacturing Training Row” in Bay County.

The Welding Lab will be a 2400 square foot expansion designed in accordance to specifications required for foundational welding training and specialty skills needed by industry. Specific requirements include at least a 12-foot ceilings, industrial ventilation, and an industrial utility door. The planned layout would include a fully equipped welding lab, fitted with 18 welding training booths and training stations.

The students within the program will begin safety and foundational welding curriculum that aligns with the Welding program at Haney Technical center. They will learn through virtual trainers and hands-on practice, setting the stage for advanced welding techniques and earning industry certifications. The learning goals for the students in the program include over 300 hours of instruction in preparation for the American Welding Society (AWS)-Level I certification and exposure to the variety of career paths related to manufacturing that includes welding. This program, along with the Construction and Manufacturing Academy will provide exposure to learning that may spark a career in manufacturing and other innovative fields.

A Welding Workforce Training Lab will diversify the options for all levels of students including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Honors and the general student body. Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes have already become a standard elective for all levels of students. Students engaged in this program will be ready to work upon graduation, can pursue Welding at Haney Technical Center or can continue with a post-secondary degree from Gulf Coast State College, Florida State University Panama City or any other Florida colleges or universities if desired.

i. Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast

Bay District Schools requests a total of \$965,000 for the project which includes the construction of the expansion as well as equipment and installation necessary to complete the entire lab.

ii. The amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program.

Bay District Schools will provide in-kind contributions estimated over \$486,000, including \$466,000 in personnel (Construction, Manufacturing and Welding instructors and Rutherford administrators), an estimated \$20,000 in consumable supplies annually, and additional training and certification for instructors as needed.

Industry Partners will be solicited to contribute time for instruction in the workforce training programs as an in-kind contribution.

Gulf Coast State College will provide in-kind contribution of a Gulf Coast navigator to ensure a seamless transition to post-secondary education.

iii. The location of the project or program

The Welding Workforce Training Lab is projected to be a 2400 square foot expansion located on the Rutherford High School campus. The Lab extension will be constructed between the Manufacturing Academy and the Construction Academy, visibly Located on the 11th Street in Panama City. That area of the campus dedicates the entire corridor to career and technical academies, considered “manufacturing row”.

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, and a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

The construction of a Welding Workforce Training Lab at Rutherford High School will create a long-term sustainable workforce pipeline that transforms not only Bay County but the entire Northwest Florida region. The proposed project aligns with the goals outlined in the Northwest Florida Forward report, *A Regional Strategy for Economic Transformation*, validating the need to invest in workforce training that will strengthen Talent, Business Vitality, Infrastructure, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Quality of Place in the Northwest Florida region. The report cites that the accessibility to talent is the number one factor in the decision for a company to relocate and that K-20 education must strengthen workforce training to position the region for economic growth. The development of the proposed Welding Workforce Training Lab addresses this factor by

demonstrating to future industry prospects that there is a solid workforce training pipeline at the high school level fully committed to the Manufacturing sector.

This project demonstrates a strong commitment to fostering a multicultural talent pool that is a core value for many companies establishing a foothold in the region. In 2016, there were over 1000 students attending Rutherford High School. Over half (51%) of the student body are people of color which includes African American, Asian, Multiracial, Hispanic, Native American, and Pacific Islanders combined. Expanding the career and training programs to include welding broadens the opportunity for the manufacturing industry to recruit a workforce that is reflective of the nation's diversity. The offerings will also benefit a student population that are considered disadvantaged with a majority qualifying for free and reduced lunch, another important priority in addressing economic disparities in the county as well as the Northwest Florida region.

The proposed project will continue to leverage the efforts made by regional organizations to create a talent pipeline such as the Northwest Florida Manufacturers Council. The council provided a \$250,000 initial investment, through a grant funded by the Florida State Legislature, to start the first Manufacturing Academy at Rutherford High School and Everitt Middle School in 2015. The Welding Workforce Training Lab builds upon the foundation established by the regional initiative and will assist in further transforming the workforce pipeline for Northwest Florida.

Bay county high school students will be posed with new opportunities and a desirable choice to enter a training pathway that jump starts their career and can yield a fruitful position and certifications in welding, construction, and manufacturing. These programs embedded with portable national certifications will give the youth a competitive advantage in the workplace as well as allows them to articulate credits so they can pursue technical training and education at Haney Technical center or a post-secondary degree from Gulf Coast State College, Florida State University Panama City or at any other Florida colleges or universities if desired.

v. Timeline

If funded, the planning, design and construction is estimated to take 10 – 14 months to complete. Planning and design (4-6 months) followed by construction and installation (6-8 months).