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Triumph Approves Transformational Projects in Northwest Florida

Crestview, FL – As Northwest Florida continues on its recovers from Hurricane Michael, Triumph Gulf Coast’s board of directors voted to support three transformational job creation and workforce development projects. These three key projects key in Franklin, Santa Rosa and Escambia counties support the expansion of existing industries and development of new industries.

Franklin

In Hurricane Michael impacted Franklin County, Triumph unanimously voted to move forward to a term sheet for an education proposal from Franklin County School Board (FCSB) that will result in industry certifications in subject areas including medical fields, welding and computer technology. The Triumph request of \$2,327,322.00 represents 70.3 percent of total project cost over a 3.5-year period. FCSB will contribute \$984,500.00 towards the project.

It is expected that 800 CAPE Certifications will be obtained by students in elementary middle and high school over three and half years. A unique curriculum will also be introduced in Franklin schools that covers the unique attributes of the regional seafood industry.

The Triumph board extended the timeline for the new programs to be implemented to account for Hurricane Michael’s impact on the Franklin County community.

Santa Rosa

The Triumph Board voted on final approval of an agreement for \$8.5M in site development at Whiting Aviation Park. The project, expected to create over 200 high paying jobs, is built on the investment Santa Rosa County made to purchase 267-acres adjacent to NAS Whiting Field and a unique MOU with The Department of the Navy for “through the fence” accesses for private companies. The total project cost is \$17,704,975.

Development of Whiting Aviation Park strengthens the region’s aviation cluster with the Pensacola Airport to the east and the Crestview Bob Sikes Airport in Okaloosa County to the west. It enhances the region’s growing aviation industry by providing additional industrial space adjacent to an existing airfield. And it supports the regional strategic initiative of expanding the aerospace and defense industry cluster, an industry with a strong outlook for growth.

Escambia

Triumph voted to approve terms for a transformational \$56M grant to the City of Pensacola in Escambia County for new MRO hangars and additional facilities at the Pensacola International Airport. At full buildout the MRO Aviation Campus's four MRO hangars, administrative building, warehouse and shop space will have the capacity to house over 1,725 new jobs and cost \$334,825,000.00.

Current project funding partners include the City of Pensacola, Escambia County, the State of Florida/Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, VT Mobile Aerospace Engineering, and the Industry Recruitment, Retention and Expansion Fund. Local economic development agencies, educational institutions, and tenant companies will work together to implement training programs to create a sustainable workforce. Job functions at the MRO Campus are expected to include Master Airplane Technicians, Aircraft Inspectors, Master Structures Technicians, Sheet Metal Mechanics, and Avionics Technicians.

These targeted investments in Santa Rosa and Escambia in the aviation and aerospace cluster are expected to drive supply chain companies to co-locate in the region. Florida is currently #2 in the nation for aviation and aerospace establishments and added more than any other state in the southeastern U.S in 2017.

Triumph Gulf Coast's board of directors is appointed by the Governor, Chief Financial Officer, Attorney General and presiding officers of the Legislature. The appointees to the Triumph Board are Allan Bense, Dr. Pam Dana, Chair Don Gaetz, Ben Lee, and Stephen Riggs, IV and Jason Shoaf. All meetings of the board are public.

More information about Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. is available at www.myfloridatriumph.com.

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