

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 eligibility for potential ideas of 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:

**The District Board of Trustees of
Tallahassee Community College**

Proposal Title: **Unmanned Vehicle
Systems Center of Excellence**

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested:
\$1,500,000

Total Estimated Project Cost:
\$2,000,000

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) is one of the nation’s top performing community colleges. Since its inception in 1966, the College has been at the forefront of advancing student success through education, workforce development and certification programs. On April 17, 2012, Governor Rick Scott signed Florida’s budget, which included a \$4.5 million investment for TCC to construct the Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) in Wakulla County. In 2013, the College purchased 158 acres off of Crawfordville Highway for the WEI and broke ground later that same year. The large, beautiful tract of land features a sinkhole, wetlands and a natural bridge. This property will easily accommodate a world-class facility to fulfill the Institute’s three-part mission of education, conservation and recreation.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact: **Steven Solomon**

Title: **Director of Grants and Special Projects**

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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program:

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a maximum of two (2) pages, please describe the proposed project or program and anticipated outcomes 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.

Wakulla Environmental Institute Unmanned Vehicle Systems Center of Excellence

Unmanned Systems have been established as being the future for growth in the S.T.E.M areas of Industry. No longer for just military uses, drones are now used by First Responders, Law Enforcement for Public Safety, Real Estate Investors, Farmers, Power and Utility Companies, and has applications in Agriculture, Environmental, and Marketing Industries. WEI will focus on three areas as part of our efforts to grow the economy in the rural counties in the gulf region: **Air, Land and Sea.**

We are currently seeking *\$1.5 Million* from Triumph Gulf Coast where the total project in establishing the Center of Excellence for Unmanned Vehicle Systems will cost *\$2 Million* total where additional funding will be raised from donations from the private sector.

Wakulla Environmental Institute Unmanned Aerial Systems Center of Excellence Program - AIR:

The FAA is focused on creating Centers of Excellence for Unmanned Aerial Systems across the U.S. with Community Colleges, and TCC has personally talked with the FAA about bringing a Center of Excellence to WEI. At WEI we are committed to providing an innovative training program which will focus on: **1. Technical Training and Human Performance** and **2. Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

WEI has already established an unmanned aerial system training program that has yielded great success in establishing WEI as the definitive site for drone training. Our goal is to extend the current programs being offered and develop an Associates of Science degree in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS A.S.), as well as additional certificate programs. This program will have two tracts, 1. Aviation Training and 2. Aviation Systems Development. The mission at WEI for all of our programs is two-fold 1. to provide students with the essentials to further their education by obtaining an advanced degree in related fields and 2. Entrepreneurship.

Wakulla Environmental Institute Unmanned Vehicle Systems Program – LAND:

Our focus here will encompass most of what our Aerial Program will provide with the addition of development of different platforms capable of handling FLIR (Forward-Looking Infrared), GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Data Analytics, Lidar (Laser Imaging, Detection and Ranging), and Facial Recognition. We will explore the different

S.T.E.M areas to provide training in Robotics, Manufacturing, Computing, and Systems Engineering to name a few.

We will look to establish a program that will focus on developing innovative techniques for small plot farming, vertical farming, geographical surveying and mapping as part of the training that will be provided. This will be both transformational and provide the necessary economic recovery for this region.

Wakulla Environmental Institute Unmanned Vehicle Systems Program – SEA:

The focus will be to build autonomous underwater drones with the capability to scan and give an accurate detailed account through photography, video and also be flexible enough to provide other details of the underwater environment through observation.

Overall, we will look at developing autonomous drones for air, land and sea-based platforms for use in Agriculture, Public Safety, Surveying and Land Management. **With this as a platform, we will expand in the use of our UAS to our other Technical Training fields such as Utilities and Telecommunications.**

<i>Project Activities</i>	<i>2018 – 2019</i> Year 1	<i>2019 – 2020</i> Year 2	<i>2020 – 2021</i> Year 3
Objective 1: Begin programmatic development of the WEI Unmanned Vehicle Systems Center of Excellence Purchase equipment, develop curriculum, hire, begin recruitment of students:			
1.1 Purchase equipment for submersible drone technology and maintenance	√		
1.2 Developed additional curriculum and educational programs	√		
1.3 Hire Instructors	√		
1.4 Begin recruitment of students:	√		
Objective 2: Begin workforce and academic programs for the WEI Unmanned Vehicle Systems Center of Excellence:			
2.1 Unmanned Vehicle Systems Operations		√	
2.2 Unmanned Vehicle Systems (Drones, including submersibles with sub-category focus on utilities)		√	

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 reviewed and then considered for award at the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Please Select the Proposal's Eligibility Category(s)

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was created to make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The disproportionately affected counties are: Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County. *See*, Section 288.08012.

1. From the choices below, please check the box that describes the purpose of the proposed project or program (check all that apply):

- Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties;
- Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;
- Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;
- Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
- Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties.

Please Select the Priorities this Proposal's Outcomes will Achieve

1. Please check the box if the proposed project or program will meet any of the following priorities (check all that apply):
 - Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
 - Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
 - Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
 - Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
 - Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.
 - Provide outcome measures.
 - Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
 - Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
 - Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.