

Application Score Sheet

Proposed Project:

Proposed Project/Program County:

Board of County Commission Support:

Total Projected Project Cost: \$3,260,652

Match Provided: \$1,060,300

Triumph Funds Requested: \$2,200,358 (67.5%)

Triumph Funds Recommended by Staff: \$2,200,358

Score: B

ROI: \$10.1 dollars in discounted, inflation-adjusted earnings for every Triumph dollar expended

Economic Impact Analysis and Score

Gulf Coast State College is requesting \$2,200,358 to implement a nursing simulation education and training center at its location serving Gulf and Franklin Counties. This requested amount represents 67.5 percent of total project costs of \$3,260,658.

The Triumph funding will go primarily towards instructional staff expense during years one and two of the program (\$1,000,000 to cover staff at 100 percent during those years, and 50 percent during year 3), while GCSC proposes to fully fund staff expense in years four and beyond, and 50 percent in year 3. The \$1.2 million balance of Triumph funds would be spent in the first year to remodel and equip two existing classrooms and to purchase a portable simulation classroom.

The College commits to 289 completers over a six-year period, with an additional one-year grace period if needed to attain that cumulative number of completers.

The proposed cost of \$7,614 is expensive relative to other CTE projects that Triumph has funded. However, the need for healthcare technicians and professionals in the rural hurricane impacted counties may warrant such an investment. Over a 20-year worklife window, the increment to personal income enabled by the training is expected to yield approximately \$10.1 dollars in discounted, inflation-adjusted earnings for every Triumph dollar expended.

While the cost is higher than would normally be found acceptable to the Board, the particularly challenging circumstances that are present in Gulf and Franklin counties mean that these skills are particularly valuable. For those reasons, staff score this proposal as an "B" and recommend that it move forward.

Project Summary (based on information provided by the applicant)

The Gulf Franklin Campus (GFC) of Gulf Coast State College located in Port St Joe, Florida is requesting a \$2,200,358 Triumph grant to expand the number of students who can be served in the nursing programs offered at the campus. The requested funding would be used to purchase equipment, including human patient simulators; remodel existing facilities to accommodate the simulation equipment; fund startup salaries of faculty until programs are self-sustaining in order to increase enrollment, completion, and job placement in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Practical Nursing (PN) and LPN to ADN Bridge (Registered Nurse) programs.

The increase in capacity of the campus would be accomplished by the creation of a nursing simulation center using the newest and most effective simulation equipment, technology, and trained faculty. The creation of the Nursing Simulation Center at the GFC would enable the nursing students to perform clinical training on-site at the GFC. Historically, the barrier to expanding the nursing programs at the GFC has been a shortage of clinical sites.

In addition to addressing the shortage of clinical training sites, the proposed project is transformational due to the use of new simulation technology to complement and enhance the training that nursing students are receiving at the Gulf Franklin Campus.

In the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health Care System*, simulation training is recommended as one strategy to prevent errors in the clinical setting. Human patient simulation is a relatively new teaching strategy that allows learners to develop, refine, and apply knowledge and skills in a realistic clinical situation as they participate in interactive learning experiences designed to meet their educational needs.

The use of human patient simulation as an instructional strategy can enhance patient safety and optimize outcomes, providing a means of allowing nursing students to “practice” critical thinking, clinical decision making, and psychomotor skills in a safe, controlled environment, without potential risk to a live patient. Errors can be allowed and corrected without concern for patient safety. The use of this new and developing technology is transforming nursing education programs across the country and the nursing programs and students at the Gulf Franklin Campus will benefit greatly from this new technology.

Transforming the GFC nursing programs through the use of simulation technology will help to ensure that the local communities served by these programs have an increased number of highly trained nurses serving the area in the future. The proposed program includes:

Certified Nursing Assistant Program (CNA): The Nursing Simulation Center would permit the CNA skills training to be offered twice weekly, decreasing the time to complete the program from 15 weeks to 8 weeks. The condensed CNA program could then be offered at least three times per year, increasing enrollment from the usual maximum of 12 students to 36 students. Additional classes could be offered based on community need.

Practical Nursing (PN): The creation of the Nursing Simulation Center would allow nursing students to perform clinical training on site at the GFC which would enable the PN program to

offer two start dates a year, rather than one. This would double the enrollment potential from 36 to 72 each year.

LPN-ADN Bridge Program: The LPN-ADN Program is offered as a weekend option at the GFC and currently has a maximum of 18 students enrolled each semester. With the creation of the Nursing Simulation Center, the program could accept 22 students each semester, increasing the yearly enrollment from 36 to 44.

As a result of the creation of the Nursing Simulation Center at the GFC, enrollment would increase from the current 84 students to 152 students per year or 68 additional students. Over the 5-year scope of this request, the total increase in nursing students would be 340 students.

Historically, the completion rate for the three nursing programs has been consistently high at 85% and the employment placement rate is also consistently high at 95%. Nursing students who successfully complete the training program and pass the related licensure exam will be qualified to work throughout the region in numerous hospitals including Sacred Heart on the Gulf and Weems Hospital and assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout the region

The availability of 289 new nurses in the local communities will have a significant impact on the nursing shortage in the region and, a significant impact on the quality of life for these 289 nurses. As a result of the salaries that these new nurses are now able to earn, their ability to support themselves and their families will also have a significant fiscal impact on local economies.

The Gulf Franklin Campus will continue to partner with the school districts in Gulf and Franklin counties in providing a career pathway for students in the two counties who are interested in a nursing career. The Certified Nursing Assistant to Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse is a very clear and structured career path. This career pathway enables a student to begin training and become a CNA, become employed as a CNA or continue training to become a PN. Once the student is a licensed practical nurse, the student may go to work as a LPN or continue their education to become a registered nurse.

This nursing career pathway provides students in Gulf and Franklin counties with the opportunity to obtain their CNA, LPN and RN without leaving their homes and provides the opportunity to earn a credential and work while they are pursuing the next credential. The Nursing Simulation Center at the GFC will provide high school students in Gulf and Franklin counties who are interested in a nursing career (and may be taking health sciences courses in high school) with the opportunity to observe college nursing students in the Simulation Center and provide basic hand-on skills training while they are still in high school.

The average starting salary for RNs in the local area is \$56,480 while LPN's start at \$37,700 and CNA's start at \$25,930. The per capita income in Gulf County is \$21,005 and the per capita income in Franklin County is \$23,524. In each case, the starting salaries for the graduates of the nursing programs at the GFC will be higher than the per capita income for the area and significantly higher for RN's and LPN's. The increase in trained nurses earning salaries from \$4,000 to \$35,000 higher than the per capita incomes in the local area will have a significant economic impact on these individuals and their communities. This increase in earnings will

enable the new nurses to have more discretionary income to spend in the local area thus contributing to a positive economic impact on local businesses and the economy as a whole.

The project will be sustainable once the initial startup costs (equipment, facility remodels, faculty) are obtained through Triumph and all additional program offerings are implemented. The revenue generated from tuition and lab fees will cover the costs of the instruction in these three programs at the GFC. Local partners will also assist with funding through grants and foundation donations.

In addition to the ability to increase nursing program enrollments, completions and job placements at the GFC, the Nursing Simulation Center will also be available to community health providers, such as Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf, Weems Hospital, Cross Shores Care Center and other care centers in local communities to use to train new hires and test skill competency levels.

Funding and Budget (as provided by the applicant)

5. Please provide a Project/Program Budget. Include all applicable costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

A. Project/Program Costs:

Example Costs (Note: Not exhaustive list of possible Cost categories.)

Construction	\$
Reconstruction	\$43,350
Design & Engineering	\$
Land Acquisition	\$
Land Improvement	\$
Equipment	\$1,200,358
Supplies	\$16,950
Salaries	\$2,000,000
Other (specify)	\$

Total Project Costs: \$3,260,658

B. Other Project Funding Sources:

Example Funding Sources (Note: Not an exhaustive list of possible Funding Sources.)

City/County	\$
Private Sources	\$
Other – GCSC	\$1,060,300

Total Other Funding \$1,060,300

Total Amount Requested: \$2,200,350