

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: Northwest Florida State College

Proposal Title: Center of Aviation Excellence: Airframe & Powerplant Program Launch

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$2,800,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$6,762,310

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Located in the coastal heart of the Florida panhandle, Northwest Florida State College has earned a reputation for educational excellence and community involvement. As part of Florida's public system of 28 state and community colleges, NWF State College offers bachelor's degree programs, associate degrees, and certificates. The college's primary service district, which includes Okaloosa and Walton counties, stretches from the Gulf of Mexico to the Alabama state line. Northwest Florida State College offers 107 degrees and certificates and more than 1,000 courses each term. In addition to the main campus in Niceville, the College operates centers in DeFuniak Springs, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Santa Rosa Beach, and at Hurlburt Field.

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

Northwest Florida State College is the sole applicant for this grant; however, the College is willing and able to partner with regional institutions to address the regional and national demand for trained and certified airframe and powerplant technicians. In addition, the College has secured partners to assist in creating a customized facility and collaborating to offer K-12 students career exploration of A&P. The College is in the final stages of finalizing the Airport Board's investment of \$625,000 towards student parking at the facility. Also, the College is working to collaborate with potential partners at the Bob Sikes Airport, the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners, The City of Crestview, four-year university partners, and Okaloosa County School District.

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.

Executive Summary

Northwest Florida State College is embarking on creating a Center of Aviation Excellence (COAE) focused on aviation, aerospace, manufacturing, and university transfer degrees. This grant is focused on developing Phase I of the COAE by seeking funding to support launching the College's first program in aviation, the Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) Technician Program. Phase II and III of the COAE is focused on developing advanced manufacturing training, additional aerospace training such as fixed wing and unmanned aerial systems along with general education to support aerospace and A&P degree completion programs. Phase IV is focused on partnering with industry and K-12 to design and develop a P-Tech partnership program. The Aviation industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the nation and our region. The A&P Program is a workforce development training designed to enhance the region's aviation economy and facilitate a skilled workforce pipeline. The Center of Aviation Excellence in Crestview will provide workforce training for airframe and powerplant technicians.

As identified in the Northwest Florida Forward Regional Strategy for Economic Transformation, skilled talent is the key to productivity improvements, higher wages, innovation and increased economic prosperity. The College respectfully requests a catalytic investment of \$2,125,000 over five years to assist in purchasing equipment along with an investment of \$3,000 per certificate earned (estimated at 225 during the five year grant period) to launch the College's first aviation program at its Center of Aviation Excellence located at the Crestview Technology Air Park adjacent to the Bob Sikes Airport. Through this project the College will build its capacity to provide training to the region to increase the acquisition of high-value, industry-recognized credentials (FAA) and expand transformational, demand-driven workforce development aviation programs that address the unmet hiring needs of employers and fuel economic growth in the region. Northwest Florida State College's Aviation Training Center strives to meet this demand by providing a highly qualified, credentialed workforce.

Project Description, Funding Requested, Other Contributors, and Program Location:

The College is launching Phase I of its Center of Aviation Excellence at the Crestview Technology Air Park located at the Bob Sikes Airport in Crestview, Florida. Phase I consists of the A&P certificate programs and is a career preparatory course of study that supports the industry cluster of Aerospace and Defense with transferrable skills to the Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics industry cluster. Graduates will be fully prepared to earn the FAA Airframe and/or Powerplant rating and will be ready for a rewarding aviation job in the commercial and general aviation industries.

Beginning in 2021, the College will serve 25 students and scale its training to at least 50 students annually earning 2 to 3 FAA certifications each. These certifications are on the Florida Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) list of approved industry-recognized certifications. The Center of Aviation Excellence will expand the number of short-term workforce training opportunities to address the unmet hiring needs of employers in the region. This project will also build the capacity of the College to support students in earning family-supporting wages and fuel economic diversification and growth in the region.

The total cost of Phase I over a five-year period is \$6,762,310. The College is requesting approximately 41% (\$2,800,000) from Triumph Gulf Coast in two funding mechanisms: 1) Catalyst funding of \$1,525,000 in year 1 to purchase equipment with annual equipment funding in the amount of \$150,000 per year for four years (totaling \$600,000) and 2) Certificate based funding in the amount of \$3,000 for each certificate earned (estimated at 225 certificates totaling \$675,000). The College is budgeting the remainder of the annual costs which including personnel, facility rent and maintenance, and overhead over the five-year period of the grant representing 59%. Please note there is an upfront investment estimated between \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 by the Crestview Technology Air Park to renovate the facility and a \$625,000 parking lot cost commitment from the Okaloosa County Aviation Board.

The College has decided to locate the Center of Aviation Excellence at the Crestview Technology Air Park in the fastest growing municipality in our region, Crestview. The COAE will create a training hub in the northern part of the County and is centrally located in the region. The College has entered into a 20-year lease for a 25,000 square foot a facility at the Crestview Technology Air Park with College financial obligations to begin at the conclusion of the facility remodel. The facility is currently being redesigned and will be remodeled to the College's programmatic specifications by the Crestview Technology Air Park.

Completion of the facility is expected in December 2020. The renovations are necessary to accommodate the specific training demands of the A&P program and projected number of students trained.

The A&P training program outcomes requires classroom instruction along with experiential learning in student laboratories. The skills labs are designed to produce realistic training in controlled environments and will adhere to FAA, Part 147 training requirements. In order to implement and offer the workforce training, the College will hire a Director of Aviation, two full-time faculty members, an appropriate number of adjunct instructors, a laboratory coordinator, and an administrative assistant.

Impact:

The Northwest Florida Forward Strategic Report (2017) and the West Florida Regional Planning Council Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report (CEDS 2018) identify growth in aviation, aerospace, and manufacturing industries, indicating that the development of skilled workers in this field will contribute to the economic transformation of our region. Aerospace, outside of the defense sector, continues to grow in the economy with demand for skilled workers. This growth is evident with the recent announcement from the City of Pensacola, in collaboration with VT mobile Aerospace Engineering, of the construction of a new Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Aviation campus located at the Pensacola International Airport also supported by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. This MRO project alone will generate more than 1,700 aircraft maintenance technician positions; many of which will need to be filled by local people needing certified training. Over the next five years, the job growth for aviation mechanics in Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties is expected to remain steady with almost 1,000 jobs posted annually. Furthermore, in neighboring Covington County, Alabama (less than 50 miles from the Crestview Technology Air Park) the demand will likely rise above projections because in November 2019 DynCorp International received a \$152 million contract renewal with The Naval Air Systems Command to provide depot level maintenance for the U.S. Navy TH-57 helicopters.

A trained A&P Technician earns an average salary of \$61,880, which is 46% higher than the average annual wage in our region of \$42,276. The Bureau of Labor Statistics lists the top 10% of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians earning more than \$76,660 a year. The region currently is not producing enough trained workers to meet the demand in annual openings, with rapid growth expected in Pensacola and the region. According to Boeing's 2018 Pilot and Technician Outlook, America will need approximately 9,000 airplane technicians a year for the next 20 years to meet market demand. For 2018, only 4,437 technicians were produced leaving a greater than 50% gap in demand and trained technicians. This trend continues each year as the demand for trained aviation technicians significantly outpaces the number of completions. Our region is poised to participate in addressing these demands particularly with the Triumph Gulf Coast's financial support to launch NWFSC's A&P Program.

In an effort to meet the needs of employers and students, the College is committed to partnering with local school districts to expand dual enrollment and establish career academies. The College will also partner with a local educational foundation to provide aviation related K-12 career exploration experiences to strengthen the pipeline of students seeking aviation training and careers along with cultivating a college-going culture amongst all K-12 students, but particularly with underserved student populations in our service area.

Timeline:

The A&P Program is designed to deliver one year training thereby achieving significant economic impact in the shortest amount of time. The launch of the College's A&P Program is dependent upon FAA final approval; however, the College expects to begin the FAA approval process in 2020. The College has already received its Board of Trustees and our regional accrediting body, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, approvals. The A&P Program is slated to begin the next semester following FAA approval. Following approval of the grant application, equipment purchases will begin so that upon construction completion, equipment can be installed to be prepared for the FAA approval inspection. It is expected that by Fiscal Year 2022, the A&P program will be fully operational.

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.

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

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.

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.