

Application Score Sheet

Proposed Project: Empowering Education and Transforming Economic Opportunities through Triumph, Walton County School District (#230)

Proposed Project/Program County: Walton

Board of County Commission Support:

Total Projected Project Cost: \$8,099,500

Match Provided: \$4,253,500

Triumph Funds Requested: \$3,846,000 (47.48%)

Triumph Funds Recommended by Staff: \$3,846,000

Score: A

ROI: \$55.1 per dollar of Triumph cost

Economic Impact Analysis Score

The Walton County School District (WCSD) proposal seeks funding to renovate their Magnet Innovation Center and their Emerald Coast Technical College (ECTC) Health Sciences Laboratory/Classrooms/Student Stations, along with equipment, supplies and salaries. They also seek \$165,000 to fund student internship tuition waivers and \$3,500 for accreditation expenses. Together, Triumph-funded elements total \$3,846,000 and represent 47.48 percent of total project costs of \$8,099,500.

Dr. Fuller has identified 2,535 certificates that are on the CAPE list and serve Triumph target market sectors that will be delivered at a cost to Triumph of \$1,517 each. Matching funding will be provided by per FTE funding from Florida Department of Education, and by the St. Joe Company. The certifications will be in the areas of information technology (IT) and also healthcare, including LPN, Medical Assistant, Medical Secretary, Health Technologist/Technician, Pharmacy Technician, and Phlebotomist.

At a reimbursement rate of \$1,517 per certification, the discounted total increase in household incomes expected from the program will be \$55.1 per dollar of Triumph cost. For these reasons, staff rate this program "A" in terms of economic impact.

Project Summary (based on information provided by the applicant)

The Walton County School District (WCSD) is requesting \$3,846,000 in Triumph funds to expand the Information Technology and Healthcare industry certification and licensure programs at the District's High School and Emerald Coast Technical College (ECTC.) During the initial five year grant period, it is expected that students will achieve at least 2,535 industry certifications and licensures. The grant will also facilitate expansion of the District's dual enrollment program to the south county area.

The expanded programs will allow high school students and working adults to access additional entry points for career advancement within industry clusters, starting with healthcare and information technology. The initial focus on expanding career preparatory curriculum and developing new delivery approaches in healthcare and information technology will increase the output of these training programs to better meet county, regional, and statewide workforce needs, not only in the short term, but also, in the longer term.

Walton County is both rural and rapidly growing. The county's website observes that Walton County was noted as the fastest growing county in Florida and the 5th fastest growing in the United States according to the April 2019 issue of US News and World Report. Expanding occupational preparation programs available at the postsecondary level and fostering career readiness at the K-12 level will facilitate the region's current and future economic growth by crafting a regionally specific "cradle to career" model to grow talent.

As one of two districts in the state with an increase of student enrollment for the 2020-21 school year, WCSD continues to gain momentum as students settle into their new normal during Covid-19. With 86% (over 9,000 students) returning to school through the traditional setting, Walton is currently one of the highest brick and mortar learning districts in the state.

In the 2018-2019 school year, almost 2300 industry certifications were earned by middle and high school students participating in rigorous industry certification examinations, resulting in a pass rate of 88%. WCSD leads the state in offering high school certifications to middle school students and expanding digital tool certifications in the elementary schools. Through offerings in Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment and Industry Certification courses, students have the opportunity to earn college credit at no cost to families. At the postsecondary level, ECTC reported program completion, placement, and licensure rates of 93%, 93%, and 97%, respectively. Their practical nursing program has a 100% completion rate and is at maximum capacity.

Over the last twenty years Walton County has experienced over 45% population growth. Over 5% of this increase is attributable to growth in the population demographic over 65 years old. Currently, over 20% of the total population of the county is over 65. An additional 22% of the population is over 50 years old. The median age of Walton County workers is 43.19 years old.

Increasing access to middle skills training will further develop the region's resilience to economic challenges as these employment competencies can form the flexible structure for re-skilling and up-skilling the workforce for growth and change.

Development of technical college offerings and industry certifications in a unique setting that prepares students for occupations in the health care sector along with expanding availability of business/information technology career education provides a foundation for students to invest one year or less in training. Students may then leverage technical certificates into associate's and bachelor's degrees through state- approved articulation agreements.

The Healthcare sector is included in the top ten industry sectors for employment in the region. Healthcare employment improves access to opportunity for residents by creating career ladders

for students through stacking of industry certification credentials; e.g., patient care technician to licensed practical nurse to registered nurse; certified phlebotomist to A.S. in medical laboratory technology. *Northwest Florida Forward, A Regional Strategy for Economic Transformation, 2017*, (pp. 16, 35), notes healthcare as a contributing variable in site selection factor number three, quality of life, as related to corporate location/relocation to an area. Access to well-trained healthcare technicians may also contribute to industry expansion or persistence in the region.

With the addition of programs in medical assisting and medical administrative specialist, along with the innovative curriculum delivery method afforded through a shared laboratory setting, multiple postsecondary industry certifications earned by healthcare students are projected to increase to 500 over a five year period. This would be a significant increase compared to the 33 healthcare industry certifications reported in 2017-2018.

The healthcare technician/healthcare support sectors offer several options for entry level employment with defined advancement opportunities. For example, the number of licensed practical nurses needed for Region 2, Okaloosa-Walton Counties, is projected at 47, with a growth rate of 83% as reflected in the 2020-2021 Regional Demand Occupations (RDOL) List. Average wages of \$18.88/hour can be estimated to produce annual earnings of \$39,270. The certificate program in practical nursing can provide entry to a career ladder with the next step of an associate's degree in nursing and the R.N. degree. Registered nurses are reported on the Regional Demand Occupations List with 1.29% growth, approximately 138 openings, with an average wage of \$27.53/hour, estimated annually at \$56,784. Students may further advance through articulation of the A.S. to B.S.N. degrees as provided in statewide articulation agreements.

Training and certification in the field of information technology affords students multiple entry points to middle skills employment with subsequent advancement. This program training cluster is also noteworthy in that it supports a variety of industry sectors and includes options that encompass entrepreneurship. Demand for skilled information technology workers is high in the region (Okaloosa-Walton) as well as the state and nation. For example, the 2020-2021 RDOL lists computer use support specialists with estimated 1.28% growth, 48 annual openings, and average annual earnings of \$55,515 while statewide demand for computer network architects reports with a 1.15% growth rate, 1,480 openings, and an average annual wage of \$91,187. Extending more dual enrollment opportunities in these programs not only reduces college costs for families, it also helps the student enter the field earlier.

Increasing access to career education opportunities through establishment of a technical college extension campus co-located at the Magnet Innovation Center will add dual enrollment opportunities for high school students in the business/information technology programs offered through Emerald Coast Technical College. In the 2017-2018 school year, one (1) dual enrollment student was reported in the information technology programs offered at the district's technical college. With textbooks, tuition, and fees supplied by the school district at no cost to the family, a career technical dual enrollment student may generate college cost savings to the family of \$1,700 to \$3,400+ depending on the number of years of participation. For the dual enrollment student who completes the certificate program and pursues an associate's or bachelor's degree, statewide college articulations may increase this savings even more.

Students are expected to earn multiple certifications as they progress through the technology programs. With enhanced program access, it is projected that total certifications awarded in the first year of the expansion will increase to 30. Year two is expected to see a minimum of 40 IT certifications, increasing to 50 in years three and four, with 55 in year 5, for a total of 225 projected certifications.

While the shorter term benefit of the project estimates college cost savings benefits to families of technical dual enrolled students ranging from \$1,700 to \$3,400+, the longer term benefit for individuals and families may be seen in more stable footing on the economic ladder through the acquisition of middle skills in demand occupations in healthcare and information technology.

This project is not limited in scope to Walton County only. Postsecondary program offerings at Emerald Coast Technical College are available to students throughout the region and employers throughout the region, Counties that border Walton County will benefit from the supply of skilled workers.

To prepare students to enter these certification programs, WCSD will expand the Project Lead the Way Launch program curriculum to a minimum of three elementary schools. The cross-disciplinary, project-based approach will provide opportunities to develop analytical and creative thinking to promote problem-solving and a solid academic groundwork to expedite students' success as they progress to more specific, technical knowledge and competencies in careers and/or postsecondary career preparation programs. A "CAPE, Jr." approach, with opportunities to earn credentials at the elementary school level, will further validate these elementary students' skills competencies.

Curriculum will also be introduced in a minimum of four middle schools to accelerate acquisition of targeted technical skills. Expansion of technical skills training and well-defined pathways delivered in the career academy model together with work-based learning for students enrolled in dual enrollment at Emerald Coast Technical College, along with summer certification boot camps will provide for expanded opportunities to earn industry certifications, cost effective use of resources, and maximum economic benefits to both the regional business community and the individual student. College and Career Transition Clubs that specifically extend career education opportunities to students with disabilities further expand the current and future well prepared labor pool for the region.

Funding and Budget (as provided by Applicant)

Exhibit A

Project # 230, Walton Triumph Proposal

**Project #230
\$8,099,500**

WCSD: Empowering Education and Transforming Economic Opportunities through Triumph

Budget

Estimated construction start date if applicable

Estimated education component start date if applicable

1-Jan-21

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Total
			Student Tuition Waivers; Accreditation Fees	Personnel	
	Bldg. Renovation and Equipment	Educational Materials and Supplies			
Please change year # to actual year					
Project Total					
2021	2,993,000.00	29,000.00	3,500.00	102,000.00	3,127,500.00
2022	3,507,000.00	46,000.00	41,250.00	222,000.00	3,816,250.00
2023	400,000.00	28,000.00	41,250.00	162,000.00	631,250.00
2024	-	28,000.00	41,250.00	177,000.00	246,250.00
2025	-	-	41,250.00	237,000.00	278,250.00
Calendar Year 6	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 7	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 8	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 9	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 10	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 11	-	-	-	-	-
Project Total	6,900,000.00	131,000.00	168,500.00	900,000.00	8,099,500.00

Triumph					
2021	1,380,000.00	15,000.00	3,500.00	30,000.00	1,428,500.00
2022	1,650,000.00	22,500.00	41,250.00	150,000.00	1,863,750.00
2023	400,000.00	15,000.00	41,250.00	-	456,250.00
2024	-	15,000.00	41,250.00	-	56,250.00
2025	-	-	41,250.00	-	41,250.00
Calendar Year 6	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 7	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 8	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 9	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 10	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 11	-	-	-	-	-
Triumph Total	3,430,000.00	67,500.00	168,500.00	180,000.00	3,846,000.00

Grantee					
2021	852,000.00	14,000.00	-	72,000.00	938,000.00
2022	1,107,000.00	23,500.00	-	72,000.00	1,202,500.00
2023	-	13,000.00	-	162,000.00	175,000.00
2024	-	13,000.00	-	177,000.00	190,000.00
2025	-	-	-	237,000.00	237,000.00
Calendar Year 6	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 7	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 8	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 9	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 10	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 11	-	-	-	-	-
Grantee Total	1,959,000.00	63,500.00	-	720,000.00	2,742,500.00

Match Source 1					
2021	761,000.00	-	-	-	761,000.00
2022	750,000.00	-	-	-	750,000.00
Calendar Year 3	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 4	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 5	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 6	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 7	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 8	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 9	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 10	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 11	-	-	-	-	-
Match Source 1 Total	1,511,000.00	-	-	-	1,511,000.00

Match Source 2					
Calendar Year 1	-	-	-	-	-
Calendar Year 2	-	-	-	-	-