



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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May 7, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

www.baycountyfl.gov

840 WEST 11TH STREET
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401

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Mr. Don Gaetz
Chair, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc
infor@myfloridatriumph.com

RE: FSU Panama City ASCENT Project – Advancing Science and Career Education in New Technologies, Application #246: https://www.myfloridatriumph.com/proposal-details/2823/

Dear Chairman Gaetz,

FSU Panama City (FSU PC) is requesting Triumph funds to maximize opportunities for citizens in Bay and surrounding counties to gain education and training in new technologies, with an emphasis in cybersecurity, to support multiple industry sectors, encourage new jobs for our region, and amplify the economic landscape of the Panhandle.

As outlined in the application FSU PC plans to establish and support a pipeline of future workers in the cybersecurity sector from secondary school to job-entry and beyond. Specifically,

“The mission of the ASCENT project is to contribute to the development of a strong, regional workforce in cybersecurity and new technologies. In order to complete this mission, ASCENT aims to develop and integrate education and training resources to produce industry-specific certifications for students and citizens of the Northwest Florida region to position them well for job attainment and advancement. Aligned with this mission, the main goals of the ASCENT project are to: 1) expand and enhance cyber- and technology- focused programs at FSU PC through an Interdisciplinary Cybersecurity Hub, 2) establish an Office of Professional Engagement and Learning (OPEL) to support local industries and attract new jobs to the area, and 3) expand technology-related youth programs to include: summer camps, career courses, career academies, and other industry certification opportunities for middle- and high- school students and teachers. Successful completion of these goals will result in the production of a minimum of 3,280 industry certifications earned over the 6-year project.”

Cybersecurity is a fast-growing workforce that is outpacing the availability of jobs nationwide, and the Northwest Florida region is well-positioned to expand into this targeted sector. Given all aspects of the ASCENT project, we believe this endeavor will be transformational for Northwest Florida by promoting economic growth, diversification of job opportunities, and enhancement of career readiness for citizens of the region.

On behalf of the Bay County Board of County Commissioners, I express our support and urge you to give full consideration to the grant application.

Sincerely,

Robert Carroll, Chairman



WILLIAM V. HUSFELT III

SUPERINTENDENT

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April 12, 2021

Randy Hanna, Dean
Florida State University Panama City
and College of Applied Studies
4750 Collegiate Drive
Panama City, FL 32405

Dear Dr. Hanna:

If the proposal entitled *Advancing Science and Career Education in New Technologies (ASCENT)* is funded by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., it is the intent of Bay County Schools to partner with Florida State University from August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2027.

Bay County Schools is excited to partner with FSU-PC to meet a teacher shortage of credentialed and qualified career and technical education (CTE) teachers. Our partnership will yield trained instructors who can teach technology and computing subjects and deliver important training in CAPE-related certifications to our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Husfelt", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Husfelt
Superintendent