



WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL

The International Business Alliance for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

September 19, 2021

Florida Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
Board of Directors
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, Florida 32317

Dear Members of the Board:

As the Founding President and CEO of the World Ocean Council, I am writing to support Florida A&M University's Triumph Fund proposal, titled, *Florida A&M University: Economic Development through Artificial Intelligence and Data Science-based Education and Training in Advanced Aquaculture*.

The WOC is the Global Blue Economy Business and Investment Organization - a unique international, multi-industry business alliance for leadership, collaboration and action on sustainable development and "Corporate Ocean Responsibility". The WOC was established in 2009 as a not-for-profit, non-government business organization which brings together the world's largest coastal and ocean business network, with 35,000+ business and investment stakeholders from around the world and across the sectors.

This proposal aligns with our business model and mission of advancing economic development, especially in advancing aquaculture, which has become critical to resolving the world's food insecurity and projected future food shortages. Food production needs to double by 2050 and beyond to feed the projected world population, and responsible aquaculture is a key part of achieving this.

If funded, the World Ocean Council will partner with FAMU and Triumph Funds in the planning and implementation of the project in the designated counties in Florida. Our world-wide presence will attract industries in these counties to help meet the objectives of this proposal and bringing much-needed awareness and economic development in these areas.

Sincerely,

Paul Holthus

Founding President and CEO
World Ocean Council