



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

840 West 11th Street
Panama City, Florida 32401
Telephone: (850) 248-8140
Fax: (850) 248-8153

March 3, 2022

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

www.baycountyfl.gov

840 WEST 11TH STREET
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401

COMMISSIONERS:

TOMMY HAMM
DISTRICT I

ROBERT CARROLL
DISTRICT II

WILLIAM T. DOZIER
DISTRICT III

DOUGLAS MOORE
DISTRICT IV

PHILIP "GRIFF" GRIFFITTS
DISTRICT V

ROBERT J. MAJKA
COUNTY MANAGER

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

RE: FSU Panama City Collegiate Lab School, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
Application #265
<https://www.myfloridatriumph.com/proposal-details/3185/>

Chairman Gaetz,

Florida State University Panama City (FSU PC) has submitted a request for funding to create a new Collegiate Laboratory High School in Bay County to serve grades 9-12. This school, expected to open Fall 2023, will serve approximately 125 students per grade level and will give admission preference to dependents of active-duty military. The school will be the first of its kind for Bay County, only the 8th lab school in the state, and will extend the benefits of having a local, top 20 university to families of high school-aged children in our area.

Students who attend the school will have the unique opportunities to earn industry certifications, complete dual enrollment coursework aligned with their intended majors, and conduct an age-appropriate research project under the mentorship of FSU faculty all while attending high school.

A high performing lab school, particularly one with degree acceleration opportunities and affiliation with a top 20 University, will add to the list of key assets for Bay County's economic growth. With immersion opportunities in high-wage, high-demand fields, such as engineering, computer science, information technology, and health sciences, students will be prepared to fill needed workforce gaps at an accelerated rate while saving their families thousands of dollars.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RC", written over a white background.

Robert Carroll
Chairman