



Board of County Commissioners

June 27, 2022

State of Florida

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Trust Fund
Application for Funds
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, Florida 32317

RE: Hsu Educational Foundation's FieldWerx Project

Dear Triumph Gulf Coast Board of Directors:

With over 30 years of experience dedicated to Federal, State, and local services policy and program creation, I understand the needs and importance of relevant and available jobs training, for both my local Okaloosa community as well as for the economic wellbeing of our state. With that said, I am happy to offer my support for **Hsu Educational Foundation's FieldWerx project** to build an ecosystem of transformative technology initiatives across Northwest Florida. Their project will establish a firm footprint in artificial intelligence (AI), extended reality (XR), and other emerging technologies in our community with a committed ecosystem of partners and their investments to strengthen the workforce here in Northwest Florida.

Skillsets and business understanding of AI and XR are emerging requirements which touch nearly every industry, not just locally but globally. Presently, over 58 million new jobs have requirements for varying levels of proficiency in these job skills. By 2030 the AI industry alone is expected to be worth more than \$15 Trillion, and the key to bringing this industry to Florida is through investing in a skilled workforce. I firmly believe that this initiative has the potential to transform the technical landscape of Northwest Florida, setting the technical foundation for our community's economic future.

Public-private partnerships will be crucial to ensuring the alignment of educational curriculum and workforce training to build relevancy with an industry as fast moving as AI and XR. I believe this initiative will have an immediate effect preparing our citizens, and the robust veteran community of Northwest Florida, with opportunities in these fast-growing jobs sectors. It is essential to foster public-private partnerships to bring in industry leading companies, such as Scale AI and Vertex Solutions, to solidify job training that sets a new trajectory for our local workforce. Establishing a ready workforce in these emerging industries will give our community better access to export services to the largest commercial technology companies in the world, as well as continue to support our defense sector with best-in-class technology. This project is committed to expanding our technical workforce by providing invaluable services and training that promises to grow net new jobs with for our community.

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Letter to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Trust Fund
June 27, 2022

I sincerely support the FieldWerx project and believe this team should receive maximum support from our local public and private leaders.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN N. KETCHEL
Okaloosa County Commissioner
District 2

CNK/jdl