



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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December 6, 2022

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

www.baycountyfl.gov

840 WEST 11TH STREET
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401

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ROBERT J. MAJKA
COUNTY MANAGER

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

RE: Support of Gulf Coast State College - Nursing Simulation Center #282

Dear (Reviewing Official) Triumph Board of Directors,

The Bay County Commission strongly supports Gulf Coast State College's request to establish an Inter-Professional Education Simulation Training Center (SIM Center) to be utilized by all programs in the Nursing and Health Sciences Divisions. The funding of this grant will be utilized to train the emergent need for skilled nurses and the future healthcare workforce in inter-professional interaction-communication, leadership training, and to facilitate practice of procedural clinical skills.

The impact of a large retirement community in Panama City Beach with over 170,000 permitted homes in a single development, the population of Bay County will grow exponentially over the next several decades. As with any aging population, the medical needs and services required to care for that population must grow exponentially as well. A new 500 bed hospital facility with 320,000 square feet and a level II Trauma Center is planned to open with 100-200 beds opening in 2027. The first of four medical office plazas that will surround the new hospital facility is currently being constructed to meet this inevitable demand and will open in Fall 2024. With this new facility under construction, and while simultaneously working to meet the workforce requirements of existing healthcare facilities necessitates educating a larger number of skilled nurses more so than ever before. To further amplify this need, the Florida Hospital Association and Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida estimates a shortage of 59,100 nurses by 2035 in the state of Florida and per the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, an estimated 40% of current nurses will reach retirement age in the next decade. The funding from this grant will help the college provide state of the art facilities and healthcare training to future nurses and healthcare providers, additionally providing ongoing continuing education to meet the workforce demands of this community now and in the future.

Approving the Gulf Coast State College's Nursing Simulation Center grant will provide Bay County with highly skilled nurses and healthcare workers who desire to live and flourish in the area and have a direct impact on the residents. Your support of this grant is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tommy Hamm".

Tommy Hamm
Chairman