

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Pensacola State College
Proposal Title: Driving Florida's Future – Diesel Mechanic Training
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$5.9 million
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$9.8 million

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Pensacola State College, under the governance of a local Board of Trustees, annually serves more than 25,000 students in its two-county service area – Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in the Northwest Florida Panhandle. The College, a member of the Florida College System, offers baccalaureate and associate degrees, workforce certificates, adult education leading to a high school diploma or GED, business and industry training, non-credit continuing education, community outreach, and cultural enrichment opportunities for students and the community. The College is committed to providing quality, affordable, and accessible educational opportunities through a variety of delivery methods.

Contact Information:

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Name of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program:

Santa Rosa County Economic Development Office

Pensacola State College Pre-Application to TRIUMPH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- (i) **Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast:** \$5.9 million
- (ii) **Amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program:**
- Pensacola State College: \$2.4 million
 - Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Job Growth Grant Fund: \$1.5 million (application pending submission)

(iii) **The location of the project or program:**

Located in the Northwest Florida Panhandle, Pensacola State College (hereafter PSC or the College), home of the “Pirates” – a comprehensive public institution governed by a governor-appointed local District Board of Trustees – was established by the Florida Legislature in 1947 as Florida’s first public junior college. More than 14,000 students enrolled in credit and noncredit courses offered during the 2022-2023 academic year. PSC, primarily an associate degree and certificate granting institution, also has a limited number of baccalaureate programs which account for about 7% of the FTE.

Santa Rosa County has leased property located at the Santa Rosa Industrial Park East to Pensacola State College for a term of forty (40) years, beginning in August 2019, for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per year as the location for educational facilities to provide technical education programs such as Diesel Systems and Maintenance Technicians. A facility, partially funded with a Triumph grant, has been constructed on this property to house the College’s Commercial Vehicle Driving Program. This proposed project provides training that will complement that program, which will be offered temporarily in other College facilities during the construction period. To meet needs during any given semester, classroom instruction may be delivered at any one of the College’s campuses or centers including:

- Pensacola Campus; Pensacola, FL; Escambia County
- Warrington Campus; Pensacola, FL; Escambia County
- Milton Campus; Milton, FL; Santa Rosa County
- South Santa Rosa Center; Gulf Breeze, FL; Santa Rosa County
- Century Center; Century, FL; Escambia County
- Downtown Center; Pensacola, FL; Escambia County

(iv) **Summary description of the proposed program:**

The proposed project integrates the *Guiding Principles* of Northwest Florida Forward (northwestfloridaforward.com), a regional strategic initiative focused on driving economic vitality and growth in the Florida Panhandle by:

- Sustainable and enduring economic base;
- Diversified industries and high-wage employment growth;
- Greater alignment of partner resources through regional collaboration;
- Improving the vitality of all areas and populations in the region; and,
- Strengthen beyond traditional economic engines.

This project also contributes to the achievement of Northwest Florida Forward’s aspirational goal for Talent:

- Connect the talent assets of Northwest Florida talent to key industry clusters and ensure a dynamic and diverse workforce for new and growing businesses.

The program included in this project will enhance efforts to move under- and unemployed individuals into high-wage jobs and support multiple employers from several industry sectors.

This project was created in response to identified deficiencies in Workforce Board Region 1 (Escambia and Santa Rosa counties) caused by events such as Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis, and Sally, the economic recession, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Primarily, there is the need to diversify our economy, which is historically heavily reliant on the tourism industry, so that we’re poised to withstand future natural and man-made disasters. Therefore, this project addresses the needs of employers from a number of occupations within the industry sector of Logistics & Distribution as identified by CareerSource Escarosa (Region 1 Workforce Board), Enterprise Florida, and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Diesel Systems and Maintenance Technicians support growing industry sectors throughout the region and the state.

Enrollment trends. This will be a brand new program for the College.

Labor market statistics.

Occupational Title	*HS/HW	Annual Percent Growth	Annual Openings	2019 Hourly Wage		**Data Source
				Mean	Entry	
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists		1.08	45	\$22.82	\$16.58	R
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics		0.80	119	22.67	\$14.79	R
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Yes	2.90	60	\$27.55	\$21.71	R
<i>Source: 2022-2023 Regional Demand Occupations List, Workforce Development Area 1 (Escambia and Santa Rosa counties); Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.</i> *HS/HW High Skill/High Wage Occupations: Mean Wage of \$24.21/hour and Entry Wage of \$15.46/hour **Data Source R: Regional/S: State (when regional data is not available)						

JobsEQ provides the following information in its Occupation Report for Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians in the College’s two-county service area. A sample of industries that hire diesel systems and maintenance technicians includes:

- Automotive repair and maintenance
- General and specialized freight trucking

- Waste collection
- Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment repair and maintenance
- Highway, street, and bridge construction
- Electric power generation, transmission, and distribution

Salary information:

- Mean: \$53,400
- Median: \$50,800
- Entry Level: \$38,900
- Experienced: \$60,700

The aging workforce:

- 22.1% of the current workforce is aged 45 to 54 years, and 25.1% of the current workforce is 55 years and older
- Current number employed in this field: 288

(source: https://jobseq.eqsuite.com/landing/all-tools/occupation-report?_num=16388215516051).

The Triumph funding request of \$5.9 million will be utilized for the construction of a metal building (a like-building to the Commercial Vehicle Driving training facility, which was recently constructed), equipment, tools, furniture, and technology for the new building, and programming costs (such as fee waivers, faculty to increase capacity, professional development for faculty, etc.).

(v) Summary timeline for the proposed project:

Activity	Month(s)
Receipt of the award approval notice	1
Issue notice to proceed with construction	2
Groundbreaking	2
Issue purchase order for furniture and equipment	12
Construction complete	18
Furniture and equipment installed	18-20
Faculty and staff move into offices	20
Classes begin in the new facility	21
Classes/training continue	22-120