TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. ("Triumph Gulf Coast") has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of eligibility for potential ideas of projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: University of West Florida
Proposal Title: UWF Watercraft and Vessel Engineering Research
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: $2,500,000
Total Estimated Project Cost: $5,000,000

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: The University of West Florida is a member of the State University System of Florida with over 13,000 students and 110 degree programs. The University of West Florida has 1,600 acres of campus headquartered in Pensacola with campuses in Fort Walton Beach and downtown Pensacola. The University is ranked #15 in "Best Regional Universities in the South" by U.S. News and World Report.

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

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a maximum of two (2) pages, please describe the proposed project or program and anticipated outcomes including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

Executive Summary

The proposed total budget of $5,000,000 will be used to establish a new university research and incubator known as UWF Watercraft and Vessel Engineering (WAVE).

Located at the Port of Pensacola near the future American Magic facility, WAVE will attract high tech watercraft and foil sailing entrepreneurs in maritime design and serve as a hub for research in composite materials, advanced machining, high-efficiency propulsion, and computational fluid dynamics. WAVE includes a facility that will support the production of custom assemblies and unique hull designs required for the development of technologically advanced sailing vessels and high-speed watercraft. The WAVE team will support the design of new sail configurations, foils, and hulls made from sustainably sourced materials. UWF faculty, students and staff will add value to this endeavor, accelerating startup companies in design, prototyping, testing, and analysis while pursuing external grant funding. The innovation space will feature 6-10 leased office spaces for private and public sector funding partners that include access to computational tools, equipment, advanced design software, and highly skilled technical support. The University has set aside $1,500,000 in state funding for economic development at the Port of Pensacola. The requested matching funds will be used to ensure that WAVE can fully meet these objectives.

Such a concept builds upon existing strengths at UWF. The Mechanical Engineering Department has faculty with expertise in composite materials, computational fluid dynamics, and non-destructive material evaluation. The WAVE facility will combine the current research and development support structure at UWF (e.g. computational software, machining centers, non-destructive testing equipment) with new equipment that will support composite material research, the development of efficient and low-emission foiling boats, reduced corrosion in metal hull material, as well as other research and development projects related to WAVE. It is expected that WAVE will be a catalyst for grant and commercial activity with agencies such as NSF, ONR, SBIR and STTR. This expansion would greatly increase the capacity of the facility to serve the emerging foil sailing and watercraft industry in Pensacola and Northwest Florida. The facility would house one UWF machinist and one Mechanical Engineering faculty member with a research background related to the center. Funded grants and part production will support the WAVE operations. Such projects will also provide UWF students with valuable experience.

UWF will partner with Sail Pensacola Inc. to lease office space to prospective partner companies. Together with American Magic, we will establish Pensacola as the epicenter of North American regattas that feature high performance foil sailing as well as traditional sailing vessels. UWF WAVE takes advantage of Pensacola's unique location on Pensacola Bay as well as the proximity to the American Magic. WAVE will serve as a magnet for startup and existing personal watercraft companies, transport vessels both commercial and military. Researchers and sailing experts have identified a need for this type of space to take full advantage of the economic growth potential of watercraft and vessel engineering and sailing.

WAVE will also support student learning and the development of a workforce to support watercraft and non-maritime industries. A separate Triumph proposal will include a request to fund future CAPE Certificates in composite boat manufacturing, CNC milling and CNC turning. The certifications will increase the workforce readiness of students in the Florida state college system, UWF and other post-secondary institutions. Courses will be taught at the Port of Pensacola to take advantage of the resources, including the talent co-located in downtown Pensacola.

UWF WAVE will capitalize on the Port's new world class yacht racing tenant, American Magic, and accelerate the economic development of Pensacola's emerging high performance personal watercraft and boat-building sector. The partnership between UWF, Sail Pensacola, and American Magic will increase workforce readiness and bring more jobs to Pensacola and Northwest Florida. The facility will serve as an economic catalyst on Pensacola's waterfront.

UWF WAVE will collaborate with *We Are Foiling* to form a proposed international high performance sailing center (IHPSEC). The IHPSEC will strategically integrate the UWF faculty and assets with We Are Foiling strategic leadership and industry connections, creating an industry-leading facility in the world of performance sailing, hydrofoiling, marine technology, and sustainability. This new facility will attract US collegiate rowing and sailing teams as well as international teams preparing for the 2028 summer Olympics. The IHPSEC will also serve as a recruitment engine for more water-based industries to have a presence in Pensacola.

Please Select the Proposal's Eligibility Category(s)

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was created to make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The disproportionately affected counties are: Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County. *See*, Section 288.08012.

1. From the choices below, please check the box that describes the purpose of the proposed project or program (check all that apply):

- ☐ Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties;
- ☐ Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;
- ☐ Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;
- ☐ Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;
- ☑ Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties;
- ☑ Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
- ☐ Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties.

Please Select the Priorities this Proposal's Outcomes will Achieve

1. Please check the box if the proposed project or program will meet any of the following priorities (check all that apply):

- [x] Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
- [x] Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- [x] Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- [ ] Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- [ ] Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.
- [x] Provide outcome measures.
- [x] Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
- [ ] Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
- [ ] Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.