

## **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: Lt Col Eric Lazenby/Choctaw HS AFJROTC FL-022

Proposal Title: Developing Future Aviation Professionals to Advance Northwest Florida's Aerospace Workforce

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$500,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$500,000, covering simulator, facility upgrades, FAA certifications, curriculum, cadet training, program support, and admin.

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: Choctawhatchee High School's AFJROTC program is a leadership and aerospace-focused education initiative that prepares students for military and civilian careers through character development, STEM instruction high-skill talent, and strengthen the regional workforce pipeline. and real-world aviation experiences. By cultivating discipline, technical skills, and workforce readiness in a Title I school, the program aligns with Triumph Gulf Coast's mission to expand economic opportunity, develop high skill talent, and strengthen the regional workforce pipeline.

### **Contact Information**

Primary Contact: Lt Col Eric Lazenby/Choctaw HS AFJROTC FL-022

Title: Senior Aerospace Science Instructor

Mailing Address: 110 Racetrack Rd. NW

City: Ft Walton Beach

State: FL

Zip Code: 32547

Telephone Number: 405-531-8707

Email Address: eric.lazenby@okaloosaschools.com

Website: <https://www.okaloosaschools.com/o/choctaw>

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

### **REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** See attached 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.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be reviewed and then considered for award at the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

**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):

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- ☒ 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.
- ☐ Provide outcome measures.
- ☒ 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.



**AIR FORCE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS  
AFJROTC FLORIDA - 022  
CHOCTAWHATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL**

18 April 2025

**MEMORANDUM FOR TRIUMPH GULF COAST GRANT COMMITTEE**

**FROM:** AFJROTC FL-022 / Senior Aerospace Science Instructor

**SUBJECT:** Executive Summary – Developing Future Aviation Professionals to Advance Northwest Florida's Aerospace Workforce

1. **Amount of Funds Being Sought from Triumph Gulf Coast:** Choctawhatchee High School's AFJROTC program respectfully requests \$500,000 to acquire and integrate a full-motion aviation simulator and FAA-aligned STEM curriculum—supporting AFJROTC's mission to build citizens of character committed to serving their community and nation.
2. **Amount and Identity of Other Sources of Funds:** In-kind support will be provided by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) (dual enrollment), the Okaloosa County School District, and existing classroom infrastructure.
3. **Location of the Project or Program:** The program will operate at Choctawhatchee High School in Okaloosa County, a Title I school serving 52% economically disadvantaged and 43% minority students.
4. **Summary Description of the Proposed Program:** This initiative delivers transformational aviation training via simulator-based instruction tied to FAA Part 107 and Private Pilot certification. Students will build STEM and aerospace skills aligned with high-wage career fields, while the program leverages partnerships with ERAU, Civil Air Patrol, and local industry to prepare over 230 cadets annually for the region's evolving workforce needs.
5. **How the Program Will Promote Economic Recovery and Diversification:** By developing a certified, career-ready aviation pipeline, the program drives economic growth, diversifies the workforce, and provides targeted training to students from Okaloosa, Walton, Santa Rosa, and Escambia Counties.
6. **Summary Timeline:** Summer 2025 – simulator procurement and setup; Fall 2025 – program launch; ongoing instruction and evaluation aligned with Triumph goals.
7. **Conclusion:** This project represents a strategic, sustainable investment in Florida's aerospace workforce and education infrastructure—delivering high-impact, scalable outcomes in a disproportionately affected region. For questions, please contact me at [eric.lazenby@okaloosaschools.com](mailto:eric.lazenby@okaloosaschools.com), 405-531-8707 (cell), or 850-833-3614 (office).

ERIC W. LAZENBY, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
Senior Aerospace Science Instructor