

## TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: **Gulf Coast State College**

Proposal Title: **Gulf Coast Guarantee Workforce Endowment**

Contact Information: **Glen McDonald, President of Gulf Coast State College**

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: **\$10,000,000**

Total Estimated Project Cost: **\$20,000,000**

*Project serves Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties*

### **REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Gulf Coast State College seeks a \$10 million investment from Triumph Gulf Coast to support the *Gulf Coast Guarantee*—a proven, data-backed initiative that eliminates financial barriers for students pursuing workforce credentials and degrees. Launched in 2021, this program has already transformed educational outcomes across the region and is positioned to become one of Florida’s permanent endowment-based programs for full-time, skills-based education.

**Total Project Cost:** \$20 million

**Triumph Funds Requested:** \$10 million

**Private Sector Match:** \$10 million

*Funds requested from Triumph will only be made after a private sector match has been received by the college. This makes the minimal investment by Triumph \$4.2 million (private sector money already received) and the maximum investment by Triumph \$10 million.*

The Gulf Coast Guarantee is a first-dollar scholarship program designed to ensure graduating high-school students have access to the training and education they need to become part of the region’s evolving workforce. By removing financial barriers to higher education, the Guarantee provides upfront financial assistance to graduating high school seniors from Bay, Gulf, or Franklin counties who enroll full-time at Gulf Coast State College the fall after graduation. Eligible students receive support for up to two years, regardless of FAFSA completion and other scholarship/financial aid awards.

Since its launch in 2021, the Gulf Coast Guarantee has delivered:

- 572 degrees/credentials awarded as of May 2025:
  - 414 AA      – 58 AS      – 98 workforce (ATD, CCC, VC)
- 931 non-nursing awards granted in 2024–2025
- Full-time enrollment up from 33.4% (2021) to 38.1% (2024)
- \$3.19M to 2,175 students, incl. \$954.8K to 800 in 2024–2025
- Avg. graduate wage: \$46,500/year

Additional impact highlights:

- [850+ new jobs](#) announced in Bay County (past 3 years); the Guarantee directly aligns talent pipelines with this demand
- [72% of two-year grads stay local, vs. 47% of four-year grads](#)—retaining talent and strengthen long-term regional resiliency in Triumph’s service area.

Unlike traditional scholarships, the Gulf Coast Guarantee will be a permanent endowment—only investment earnings will fund students, ensuring long-term sustainability. Financial modeling confirms that only at \$20 million does the risk of depletion fall below 1%, making the program reliably self-sustaining. The Guarantee currently needs \$850,000–\$900,000 annually to serve hundreds of students, far beyond what a smaller fund can support.

This endowment will be built through a 50/50 public-private match. For every dollar raised from the private sector, we ask Triumph to match it—up to \$10 million. Triumph's funds won't be spent, but invested and amplified. Only the interest will be used to support students, aligning directly with Triumph's mission to grow the region's workforce. Matching requests will be made only after private funds are secured.

We're not asking for money to spend—we're asking for money to grow, to fuel opportunity, and to develop the workforce across 37% of Triumph's designated territory.

## **TIMELINE**

The goal of the campaign is to build a **\$20 million endowment** that will sustain the Gulf Coast Guarantee scholarship program and ensure long-term impact. Here is a summary of the activity to date, as well as the two-phase approach to reach our \$20 million fundraising goal with Triumph Gulf Coast's help.

### *Phase 1 – Initial Commitment (Complete)*

- **\$4.2 million** raised from local donors and businesses (**complete**)
- **\$4.2 million** requested match from Triumph Gulf Coast
- **Total: \$8.4 million** toward the \$20 million goal

### *Phase 2 – Scaling for Sustainability (12-18 month Campaign. Start date fall/winter 2025)*

- **\$5.8 million** to be raised through expanded private sector fundraising
- **\$5.8 million** requested match from Triumph Gulf Coast
- **Total: \$11.6 million**

## **Campaign Summary**

- **Private Sector Investment:** \$10 million
- **Triumph Gulf Coast Match:** \$10 million
- **Total Endowment Goal:** \$20 million

This proposed public-private match—where Triumph Gulf Coast matches private contributions dollar for dollar—is a bold first for both Triumph and the state. It's a chance for Triumph to lead by example, showing commitment to sustainable, community-driven workforce development. With Triumph's support, private partners will be empowered to invest, knowing their contributions are valued, matched, and amplified for lasting regional impact.

Private sector donors will have up to a 10-year pledge period to fulfill their full commitment, allowing for flexibility while securing long-term investment in the region's future.

**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.