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# Franklin County District Schools

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## January 29, 2019 Triumph Board voted to approve education proposal from Franklin County School Board

**Port St. Joe, Florida** – Triumph Gulf Coast’s Board met in Hurricane Michael impacted Gulf County on January 14<sup>th</sup> and voted to support transformation workforce and education projects in rural Northwest Florida.

### Franklin

In Franklin County, The Triumph Board voted to approve an education proposal from Franklin County School Board (FCSB) that will result in industry certifications in subject areas including medical fields, welding and computer technology. In attendance for the meeting was Superintendent Moses who thanked the Board stating, “The sooner we break ground, the sooner we are able to provide training and certifications for our students and the adults in our community.” She ended saying, “This is a vital project for Franklin County.” The Triumph request of \$2,327,322.00 represents 70.3 percent of total project cost over a 3.5-year period. FCSB will contribute \$984,500.00.

It is expected that 800 CAPE Certifications will be obtained by students in elementary middle and high school over three and half years. Ms. Rhonda Griffin, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction, was present at the meeting and gave an update on the progress of the first certification program which began in December and was offered to 106 middle school students. Ms. Griffin reported that “As of December 18<sup>th</sup> ninety-eight students have earned a certification for that program.” A unique curriculum will also be introduced in Franklin schools that focuses on attributes of the regional seafood industry.

The Triumph Board also moved forward a proposal from the Florida State University Coastal & Marine Laboratory (FSUCML) in St. Teresa for \$7,998,678 from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. The overarching objective of Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) is to provide information and tools that will facilitate the recovery of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem, which is critical to the economy of Franklin County.

ABSI will partner with Franklin County community members as well as government, academic and non- governmental organization (NGO) stakeholders. Research will be done to gain insight into the extent of deterioration of the reef system and the underlying causes of the observed decline resulting in a plan of action for recovery of the oyster reefs and the health of the Bay. The ABSI effort proposes to leverage substantial external funding in support of the research and plan implementation. Recovery of oyster reefs will translate into positive economic outcomes for those whose livelihoods depend on a healthy Bay.

The district spent several months planning and designing the application with Ms. Griffin working closely with the Triumph Board to ensure the proposal met the grant requirements. The district feels this project is vital for economic growth and development in Franklin County.

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