

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 potential ideas for 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: Project Lead The Way

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the United States. Through pathways in biomedical science, computer science, and engineering, PLTW empowers students to develop the in-demand knowledge and transportable skills they need to thrive in an evolving world. With nearly 13,000 programs in more than 10,500 schools nationwide, over 3 million students are currently engaged in PLTW’s transformative learning experiences. PLTW programs can be found in all types of schools—public, private, charter, and specialized academies, and settings — urban, rural, and suburban. PLTW’s approach to professional development infuses a new way of teaching into the classroom. Through PLTW professional development, teachers learn how to lead the engaging PLTW experience in their classrooms; they learn to facilitate and coach and become comfortable in these roles as their students soar to new heights. PLTW has trained more than 55,000 teachers to date to instruct PLTW’s engaging, rigorous curriculum. PLTW will host several regional trainings in the Triumph Gulf Coast region and schools can start their new PLTW programs during the 2018 school year.

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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: PLTW representatives are in partnership discussions with Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa and Wakulla School Districts. All four have at least one PLTW program and have expressed interest in expanding PLTW K-12. We will partner with Gulf, Franklin, Santa Rose and Walton districts, as well as any charter schools and private schools that are interested. We are partnering with the HSU Foundation to help address both in school and out of school STEM opportunities. In addition, PLTW has established a strong national support system of numerous Fortune 500 companies, local businesses, foundations, nonprofit organizations, community colleges, and universities all across the country. These partners play a critical role in carrying out our mission by creating an ecosystem of support around students and teachers, engaging them in learning and equipping them with tools, resources, and experiences that connect the classroom to the real world.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Project Lead The Way (PLTW)

PLTW proposes a partnership with Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. to transform education in the Panhandle by expanding access to PLTW K-12 pathways and teacher professional development offerings throughout the Triumph Gulf Coast region, and provide every district and school the opportunity to implement PLTW programming.

Funding Request

PLTW requests \$4 million in funding from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. to support this initiative. PLTW will provide up to \$400,000 in in-kind resources throughout the duration of the project which will include onsite project staffing, service and support for participating districts and schools, grant management resources, marketing and communications resources, and promotional event resources. Participating school districts will offer additional in-kind support.

Proposed Locations

PLTW will engage with interested partners and districts and schools throughout all eight counties in Northwest Florida as part of this initiative. Those counties include: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla.

Project Summary

PLTW has been partnering with districts and schools in Florida since 2003 and in the Panhandle since 2007. Schools throughout Florida currently offer more than 450 PLTW K-12 programs. PLTW has trained more than 1,500 teachers in Florida, which has impacted hundreds of thousands of PLTW students to date. PLTW and its partners have invested more than \$2.5 million in grants to Florida districts and schools, through the PLTW Grant Program. These partners include ArcelorMittal, Atlas Holdings, Georgia-Pacific, Lockheed Martin, Verizon, and many more. Additionally, PLTW has relationships with several institutions of higher education throughout the state including the University of Florida, Embry-Riddle University, Florida Gulf Coast University, as well as several community colleges.

PLTW will use the funding provided through this partnership with Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. to provide grants to districts and schools to implement and/or expand PLTW programs and teacher professional development. PLTW will host a non-competitive grant process for schools to be sure applicants are ready to implement before being awarded funding. PLTW requires no administrative fees; therefore, 100% of grant funds go directly to support schools in their implementation of programs. Districts and schools receiving grants may use funds for teacher training expenses, PLTW participation fees, and equipment and supplies needed to implement PLTW programs.

PLTW Program Implementation Grants:

Districts and schools in the eight-county region will be eligible to apply for grants to implement or expand the following PLTW programs:

- *PLTW Launch* taps into K-5 students’ exploratory nature, engages them in learning that feels like play, and encourages them to keep discovering – now and for years to come. Whether designing a car safety belt or building digital animations, students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and learn to try and try again when faced with challenges. We offer 24 ten-hour modules for schools to choose from.
- *PLTW Gateway* sparks a joy of discovery and illuminates the range of paths and possibilities students can look forward to in high school and beyond. Tackling challenges like designing tires for a moon rover, cleaning up an oil spill, or solving a medical mystery, students in grades 6-8 learn to test their limits and question what’s possible. We currently offer ten nine-week units for schools to choose from.
- *PLTW Computer Science* engages students in grades 9-12 in real-world activities like creating an online art portal or using automation to process and analyze DNA-sequence data. These projects illustrate how intricately computer science is woven into our society, challenge students to think big, and transform students into builders of tech. We have three year-long courses and are piloting a Cybersecurity course next year.
- *PLTW Engineering* engages students in grades 9-12 in collaborative, real-world activities like designing a home, using a flight simulator to learn basic pilot skills, or exploring algae as a biofuel source. By pushing themselves to rework and refine their projects, students learn that both failed attempts and perseverance are key to learning and innovation. Students that participate in three courses can apply for a certification from the Florida Engineering Society in addition to software certifications.
- *PLTW Biomedical Science* engages students in grades 9-12 to step into the roles of medical investigators, surgeons, and biomedical engineers. The program’s collaborative, hands-on explorations inspire students to make an impact on the lives of those around them, while preparing them with the know-how and experience to make their ideas a reality. Students completing three courses can apply for a Bio-technician certification from the University of Florida.

PLTW Professional Development Grants:

In addition to the PLTW Program Implementation Grants, districts and schools in the eight-county region will be eligible to apply for grants to provide all teachers professional development, regardless of whether or not they intend to teach a PLTW course in their classrooms. These “standalone” teacher professional development offerings include “Activity-, Project-, Problem-Based (APB) Learning” training modules and “STEM Career Literacy” training modules. PLTW is committed to transforming teaching and aims to empower all teachers with the tools and confidence they need – ensuring that any classroom in the eight-county region might have the same student-engagement levels found in PLTW classrooms.

Transforming Education and Workforce in the Triumph Gulf Coast Region:

PLTW has an excellent track record in helping transform education and workforce landscape in diverse states and regions throughout the country. National Partners such as Toyota, Lockheed Martin, Chevron, Verizon and numerous other companies invest in PLTW through our grant process to transform education and workforce skills in areas that they do business. Other partners such as the Corporate Partnership for Economic Growth (Indiana), MASS STEM Hub

(Massachusetts), KC STEM Alliance (Kauffman Foundation/Kansas City region) and the Governor's Office for Student Achievement (Georgia) are all using PLTW as a mechanism to transform education and economic development opportunities throughout their states and regions. PLTW will collaborate with districts and schools, 2-year and 4-year higher education institutions, and business and industry partners to build seamless K-career pathways for students in the eight-county region. This will provide avenues for all students, regardless of background, that connect them to real-world, work-based, career learning opportunities.

Project Timeline

PLTW will prepare a comprehensive work plan setting out the tasks to be undertaken as part of this initiative, based on the following timeline:

Fall 2017/Winter 2018:

- Confirmation of partnership approval between PLTW and Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Schools can start the readiness application process immediately.

Winter/Spring 2018:

- PLTW will release details of the grant opportunity on pltw.org. The grant details will include a description of PLTW's partnership with Triumph Gulf Coast, grant requirements, award amounts, and implementation timelines.
- In collaboration with key stakeholders, PLTW will begin outreach to districts and schools in the eight-county region, inviting them to apply for the opportunity.
- PLTW will notify awarded districts and schools and request that grantees complete the PLTW participation form, sign PLTW Terms and Conditions, sign their grant agreements, and submit a W-9 to begin their program implementations.
- Districts and schools will finalize the selection of teacher(s) who will enroll in PLTW Professional Development offerings.
- Teacher(s) will register for PLTW Professional Development and complete Readiness Training prior to attending.

Spring/Summer 2018:

- Districts and schools will purchase necessary equipment and supplies.
- Teachers will complete PLTW Professional Development.

Fall 2018-Spring 2019:

- Districts and schools will begin implementation of PLTW programs.
- Districts and schools will receive ongoing school and technical support from PLTW.
- By April 30, districts schools will provide PLTW with implementation reports.
- PLTW will submit an aggregate end-of-year report to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. by June 15, 2019, including information on implementation progress for grantees, data collection from grantees, and project spending information.

(This same timeline, work plan, and reporting plan will be executed in year 2 and year 3 for new districts and schools that begin implementation in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years.)