

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Tom P. Haney Technical College

Proposal Title: Combat to Career: Navigating the Transition to Civilian Workforce

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$6,500,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$7,000,000

### Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization

Tom P. Haney Technical College (HTC) is a post-secondary institution of higher learning located in Panama City, Florida. Providing quality academic and workforce training programs since 1966, Tom P. Haney Technical College's mission is to provide high-quality career educational and training opportunities to meet the current and future high-demand needs of our regional and global skilled workforce. Haney Technical College is the only adult technical training center of Bay District Schools. The college offers 18 career technical education programs serving Bay, Jackson, Washington, Franklin, Gulf, and Walton Counties. Graduates have an average completion rate of 90%, an average licensure rate of 100%, and an average job placement rate of 86%.

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Name of Co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: **Unmanned Safety Institute**

## REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed program, *Combat to Career: Navigating the Transition to Civilian Workforce* is a program designed to offer exiting military personnel in Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Wakulla counties either to become certified and qualified as remote pilots of unmanned aerial systems including visual line of sight and beyond visual line of sight in aircraft greater than 20 pounds or become a FAA licensed Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic. Students successfully participating in the program have the opportunity to receive 10 certifications in the following areas: Remote Pilot Certification; Small UAS Safety Certification Level 1 and 2; Visual Line of Sight Systems Operations; Advanced Unmanned Safety Certification Level 1 & 2; Advanced Unmanned System Operations Certification; Professional Remote Operator (PRO) Certification; and Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Certification.

The program is designed in boot camp format to assist exiting military personnel to participate in a fast-paced instructional program (9-12 weeks for) that will result in employment opportunities either as remote unmanned aerial systems pilots or (2-3 weeks) for Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Certification.

The program is structured to provide training to exiting military in a hybrid format (combination of on-line instruction, face to face instruction, and hands-on training including flight training). The face to face

training will be provided at Tom P. Haney Technical College.

The unmanned aerial systems training is designed to provide students with a career pathway consisting of multiple “exit points”. These exit points will enable a student to exit at specified points in the training with the skills and certifications needed to become employed in specific occupations. The career pathway includes beginning entry level positions (remote pilots) and progresses to pilots of advanced and complex aerial systems. This career pathway provides students the opportunity to participate in all the training, or exit based on their specific occupational goal. Students with previous experience in the operation of unmanned aerial systems will have the opportunity to have this experience evaluated, and where possible, will receive credit for this previous experience. Students participating in the CFR Part 147 Aviation Maintenance Technician boot camp will receive intense, targeted instruction to prepare them for the FAA AMTC exams.

Students participating in both will be assisted in finding employment at the conclusion of the program and successfully completing the licensure exams. It is projected that students who complete the entire Boot Camp and earn all related industry certifications will have a 90% employment placement rate within one year of completing the program.

The national average salary for experienced remote pilots is \$83,662 and experienced aircraft mechanics is \$76,260. The proposed Combat to Career program will enable exiting military in the region to receive the fast-tracked training and certifications needed to become employed in this growing field and to earn salaries that are at or above the average medium income in the counties in the region.

The success of the program will be measured by the number of industry certifications in unmanned aerial systems and aircraft maintenance technician that are received by students enrolled in the program. Five hundred (500) industry certifications in unmanned aerial systems will be earned and awarded to Boot Camp participants over the next 5 years.

As a result of the demand for aircraft maintenance technicians and remote pilots and the excellent salaries available, this program will have a significant impact on the region by providing employment opportunities for exiting military who are leaving military bases in the region and are seeking short termed training that will enable them to find lucrative employment and to stay in the region. While there are numerous employment opportunities in the region for remote pilot of unmanned systems, there are also employment opportunities that would enable individuals to travel but remain living in the region and support local economies. The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International projects the need for remote pilots to be at least 100,000 by 2025.

In addition to preparing exiting military in the region for high wage-high skill jobs, the program will also create a workforce pipeline of mechanics and remote pilots residing in the region, which could result in companies relocating to the region, establishing facilities and creating additional jobs in the region.

Tom P. Haney Technical College is requesting \$6,500,000 from Triumph Gulf Coast to provide training resulting in industry certifications (500) in unmanned aerial systems and aircraft mechanics to exiting military personnel. This program, Combat to Career, will run year around.

The cost per certification received is \$3,750 which includes training for the 10 certifications, ground school, simulation training and flight training.

Tom P. Haney Technical College will provide in-kind contributions of \$350,000 for administrative and instructional support in conjunction with training partners, building space, training equipment, and curricular materials.

The timeline for the project is:

June -August 2024	Submission and Approval of Project by Triumph Gulf Coast
August-December 2024	Advertising and Recruitment of Exiting Military First Course Begins
June 2029	Courses/Grant Completed