



June 20, 2024

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
Plaza Level, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
President
The Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Paul Renner
Speaker
The Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

VIA EMAIL DELIVERY

RE: Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Semi-Annual Report January 2024 – June 2024

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Passidomo, and Speaker Renner:

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was originally created in statute in 2013 and received its first funding from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Settlement in 2017. Triumph Gulf Coast has become one of the most successful and effective economic development engines in Florida history. As the stewards of \$1.5 billion awarded to Florida by the federal court for economic damages caused by the oil spill, Triumph Gulf Coast's statutory mission is to strengthen and diversify the economy of coastal Northwest Florida through job creation, workforce development, and public infrastructure.

Since its first grant award of \$10 million in 2018 to expand the Port of Panama City, Triumph has awarded more than \$605 million to 67 projects in all eight counties disproportionately affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

During this reporting period Triumph Gulf Coast has passed the half billion dollar mark in awarded grant funds. The largest ever grant (\$98,453,615) was made to FSU for Project InSPIRE to collaborate with educators, researchers, manufacturers, and defense contractors to increase the aviation/aerospace and advanced manufacturing footprint in Northwest Florida.

Additionally, Triumph has agreed to fund aviation MRO (Project Maple) and new nursing training (Gulf Coast State College) in Bay County, a new technical college campus adjacent to the Crestview airport (Okaloosa Tech North Campus), a charter school technical training program in a formerly failing school (Charters USA/Warrington Prep Academy) and a collaborative manufacturing innovation institute supporting the Department of Defense, industry, and academia in Escambia County. Staff is working towards finalizing a grant award agreement for Santa Rosa County to build a new distribution facility, and with Franklin County to build a new emergency communications system. We are awaiting final execution of a grant award with Visit Florida to provide a regionwide marketing campaign to benefit all eight Triumph counties.

As new projects are funded, older projects are coming to fruition. Since our last report, members and staff have participated in a lease signing ceremony with the City of Pensacola and American Magic, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the AI/STEM classroom at Destin Elementary School, the FloridaCommerce Northwest Florida Tour, the groundbreaking for ST Engineering Hangar 3 and a ribbon cutting for the new IHMC Healthspan, Resilience and Performance Research Building in Pensacola. The FSU Apalachicola Bay Systems Initiative project released its report, "Eco-system Based Adaptive Restoration and Management Plan" providing guidance to state and federal agencies on a plan to restore the bay to its former productive state even as research continues.

Members and staff have participated in forums and meetings such as the FPL Northwest Florida Economic Symposium, Opportunity Florida and Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce roundtables, a community leadership briefing at Tyndall AFB and the historic MOU signing ceremony with FSU and all state colleges across the region. Staff is meeting with each workforce training awardee to assess progress and lessons learned.

As Triumph's Education Advisor, Dr. Frank Fuller, recently noted, each of these workforce projects started in its own individual silo, but as the Triumph vision unfolds across the region, a true network of skilled workers and the underlying training foundation to afford the creation of new, high skill, high wage jobs have taken hold.

Triumph's milestones to date include:

- More than \$254 million in infrastructure investments including expansions of two seaports, a major highway bypass to support military missions, a successful maritime industrial park, outside the gate airfield expansion to substantially expand military support missions, industrial parks across the Highways 90 and Interstate 10 corridors with a majority of sites already committed. Job creation projects include aircraft maintenance-repair-overhaul campuses with international partners and customers, electrical transformer manufacturing, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing, marine manufacturing, and multiple logistics and distribution facilities.

- \$295 million in education workforce training including facilities and faculty for airframe, aircraft maintenance and pilot training, a joint venture with the University of Florida and a local school district for development and delivery of artificial intelligence instruction, a Florida State University STEM lab school supporting the post-Hurricane Michael rebuild of Tyndall Air Force Base, four Unmanned Systems drone training programs linked to K-12 school districts, a nurse training program that will add 4000 new nurses and provide \$315 million of additional household income to the Triumph region within the next 10 years, Career Technical Education (CTE) training in welding, pipefitting, carpentry, construction and industrial trades, HVAC, agriculture sciences, emergency management, fire sciences, health care services, information technology, commercial driving licenses, and engineering/design sponsored by seven K-12 districts, two universities, four state colleges, and a county sheriff's office.

The net effects to date include:

- 6,700 net new jobs, with all incentivized jobs paying 115% or more of the prevailing wages in the area
- 68,715 national industry certifications, licensures, or milestones earned by K-12, college, university, retiring military, and military spouses in the very occupational categories most needed in our coastal economy
- More than \$929 million in net new family income annually
- Uncommon risk-sharing by attracting over \$1.3 billion in matching funds, attracting private and public sector partners as full investors in every project
- A regional economy more diversified, resilient, and self-reliant than at any other time in our area's history

A highly unusual feature of Triumph's operation is the strict, objective, measurable performance metrics applied to every project. Binding contracts with qualified applicants and partners ensure that Triumph can reclaim funds in all cases if metrics aren't achieved. When hurricanes and pandemic conditions justified flexibility, the Triumph board renegotiated with a few applicants. But, to date, not one of the funded projects has been cited for non-performance nor have any funds had to be clawed back.

Triumph has provided extensive hands-on help to applicants to qualify for funding, evaluated every proposal with due diligence, return on investment, and job-creation viability prior to every award, and managed and monitored every project for contract compliance and faithful performance. These functions are carried out by Executive Director Susan Skelton, Program Administrator Cori Henderson, Economic Advisor Dr. Rick Harper, Education/Workforce Advisor Dr. Frank Fuller, Construction Compliance Advisor Randy Lewis, AIA, Administrative Specialist Therese Baker, Administrative Assistant Cecily Kopytchak, and Education Compliance Program Manager Juliet Milam together with the accounting firm of Tipton, Marler, Garner and Chastain, and the Clark Partington law firm.

Triumph Gulf Coast is independently audited by outside auditors and is examined and audited annually by the Auditor General of Florida. Not once in its existence has Triumph been cited or criticized by any auditor or oversight body.

Triumph Gulf Coast's original directors completed their terms in 2022, which, by law, cannot be extended. Directors who have served since the organization's inception, and their appointing authorities, are:

Governor appointees:

Stan Connally, Jr. - June 3, 2017 – September 1, 2018
Lewis Bear, Jr. – March 26, 2019 – June 2, 2021 (Vice Chair 2020)
David Bear – August 13, 2021 – June 2, 2025 (Chair 2022 - 2024)

Attorney General appointees:

Pam Dana, Ph. D – June 3, 2017 – June 2, 2021 (Vice Chair 2021)
Collier Merrill – July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025 (Vice Chair 2022 - 2023)

Chief Financial Officer appointees:

Stephen Riggs, IV – June 3, 2017 – June 2, 2021 (Treasurer 2017 – 2021)
Reynolds Henderson – July 20, 2021 – June 2, 2025 (Treasurer 2022 - 2024)

Senate President appointees:

Allan Bense – June 3, 2017 – June 2, 2022 (Original Chair 2017)
Jason Shoaf – June 30, 2017 – June 20, 2019
Matt Terry – August 13, 2019 – June 29, 2022
Bryan Corr, Sr. – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026
David Humphreys – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026

House Speaker Appointees:

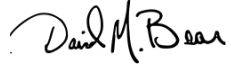
Robert Bonezzi – June 3, 2017 – January 10, 2018
Ben Lee – January 18, 2018 – June 2, 2022 (Assistant Treasurer 2020-2022)
Don Gaetz – June 30, 2017 – June 29, 2022 (Chair 2018-2022)
Jay Trumbull, Sr. June 27, 2022 – June 1, 2026 (Vice Chair 2024)
Leslie Weiss – August 18, 2022 – June 30, 2026

The Governor, Chief Financial Officer, and Attorney General made their most recent appointments in 2021. The Senate President and House Speaker also appointed new directors in 2022 to carry out Triumph's statutory mission for the next four years.

The Triumph directors express our gratitude for the opportunity to serve the State and our coastal communities. We are particularly grateful to Executive Director Susan Skelton and her small but highly effective team. We look forward to building on Triumph Gulf Coast's past successes and making many more transformational projects come to fruition.

On behalf of the Triumph Gulf Coast Board of Directors,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Bear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "B".

David Bear, Chair

Attachments

CC: Members of the Florida Cabinet

Members of the Northwest Florida Congressional Delegation

Members of the Northwest Florida Legislative Delegation

Members of the Triumph Gulf Coast Board

Preapp #	Applicant	Project	Amt Requested	County	Eligible
Current Pre-Applications					
321	Walton County School District	EPIC- CTE Expansion	\$43,250,000	Walton	Yes
324	Walton BOCC	Public Safety Communications System	\$15,384,192	Walton	Yes
325	Franklin's Promise Coalition, Inc.	Coastal Resilience Training Center	\$10,128,062	Franklin	Yes
327	Gulf County School District	Digital Technology	\$1,500,000	Gulf	Yes
328	Okaloosa County School District	Building Trades and Applied Welding Expansion	\$2,990,000	Okaloosa	Yes
329	City of Niceville	NWFL Aquatic Sports and Training Center	\$10,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
330	University of West Florida	Watercraft and Vessel Engineering (WAVE)	\$2,500,000	Escambia	Yes
334	Integrated Solutions for Systems	Panhandle Advanced Research and Collab Site	\$15,000,000	Okaloosa	No
335	Gulf Coast Kids House	The Healing House	\$4,000,000	Escambia	No
336	Haney Technical College	Combat to Career	\$7,000,000	Bay	Yes
337	Gulf BOCC	Ship MRO Facility (SMRO)	\$44,500,000	Gulf	
338	NWFL Beaches International Airport	Project Joe	\$25,000,000	Bay	
Archived Pre-Applications					
2	Miracle Strip Mgmt, LLC	Lynn Haven Office/Warehouse	\$3,670,000	Bay	No
3	Miracle Strip Mgmt, LLC	Miracle Strip Warehouses	\$4,100,000	Bay	No
6	Robert Condon	Petrochemical Clean Up Co.	\$2,100,000	Escambia	No
7	Dr. Phillip Renfro	Airport Multispecialty Medical Clinic	\$3,500,000	Escambia	No
8	City of Destin	Crosstown Connector	\$5,700,000	Okaloosa	Yes
12	Escambia County	OLF8/OLFX Land Swap with DOD	\$29,900,000	Escambia	Yes
13	Escambia County	Beulah Interchange Connector	\$11,250,000	Escambia	Yes
15	La Vie Et Belle	Papillion Pavillion	\$1,632,700	Walton	No
16	Cellarus Partners, LLC	Emerald Coast Motorsports Park	\$70,000,000		No
17	FSU College of Law	Center for Econ Opportunity for Veterans	\$600,000	Wakulla	No
18	North Pt St Joe PAC	MLK Boulevard Redevelopment Project	\$5,750,000	Gulf	No
21	Santa Rosa Co. School Dist.	Innovation High School	\$40,000,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
22	City of Carrabelle	Northwest Downtown Rivatillization - Ave B	\$860,000	Franklin	Yes
23	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle Airport Improvements	\$30,000	Franklin	Yes
24	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle City Hall Construction	\$280,000	Franklin	Yes
25	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle Septic Tank Abatement	\$590,000	Franklin	Yes
30	Okaloosa Co School District	Vocational Ed in Need of Support Project	\$45,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
31	St. Marks Refuge Association	Lighthouse Repair and Improvements	\$300,000	Wakulla	No
33	City of Apalachicola	Workforce Housing Revolving Fund	\$400,000	Franklin	Yes
36	South Walton Fire District	Training/Maintenance Facility	\$3,300,000	Walton	Yes
37	SocialDesk Enterprises	Tri-Net Fiber Optic Project Planning	\$600,000	Multi	No
39	Okaloosa County	Bridge to Bridge Multi-Use Path	\$5,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
40	Okaloosa County	Digital Okaloosa Phase 1	\$6,352,814	Okaloosa	Yes
41	Okaloosa County	Eastern Crestview Bypass	\$4,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
42	Okaloosa County	Forensic Hospital Pilot Diversion Program	\$5,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
45	Okaloosa County	P.J. Adams Parkway Phase IV		Okaloosa	Yes
47	Wakulla County	Wakulla County Library Construction	\$2,900,000	Wakulla	Yes
50	Town of Jay	Water Quality Improvement Project	\$1,000,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
51	PC - Bay Co Airport District	ECP Crosswind Runway	\$15,600,000	Bay	Yes
52	PC - Bay Co Airport District	ECP SoHo Infrastructure	\$3,400,000	Bay	Yes
53	PC - Bay Co Airport District	ECP Hangar Facility anda Infrastructure	\$7,000,000	Bay	Yes
57	City of Lynn Haven	Emergency Operations Center	\$1,800,000	Bay	Yes
62	Bay District Schools	Environmental Sciences Center	\$4,500,000	Bay	Yes
63	Bay District Schools	Triumph Pre-K Academy	\$10,000,000	Bay	Yes
66	B & C Technologies	Manufacturing Partnership	\$5,000,000	Bay	No
67	Pumpout USA, Inc.	Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project	\$11,590,000	Bay	No
68	Florida State University	FSU-Panhandle Aging Research Center	\$78,000,000	Bay	Yes
71	Good Samaritan Institute	Green Jobs for Walton County	\$200,000	Walton	Yes
74	Town of Jay	Makerspace Initiative	\$375,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
75	City of Lynn Haven	Marina Island Boulevard Project	\$10,000,000	Bay	Yes
76	City of Gulf Breeze	TownCenter Infill Redevelopment Project	\$15,817,500	Santa Rosa	Yes
77	City of Gulf Breeze	MedicalTechnologyPark Infill Redev Project	\$15,253,125	Santa Rosa	Yes
78	City of Pensacola CRA	Youth Environmental Empowerment Prog.	\$1,000,000	Escambia	Yes
79	City of Pensacola CRA	West Moreno Stormwater and Streetscape	\$9,100,000	Escambia	Yes
80	City of Pensacola CRA	Downtown Infrastructure Project	\$20,800,000	Escambia	Yes
81	City of Pensacola CRA	Hollice T. Williams Greenway	\$12,500,000	Escambia	Yes
82	City of Pensacola CRA	W Cervantes St - Mobile Hwy Corridor	\$30,000,000	Escambia	Yes
86	TechFarms Capital Mgmt	Triumph Angel Fund - TechFarms Capital	\$8,000,000	Multi	No
88	City of Fort Walton Beach	Landing Ferry System and Dock Expansion	\$7,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
89	City of Fort Walton Beach	Municipal Marina	\$10,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
92	Panacea Oyster Co-op	Oyster Processing Expansion & Ecotourism	\$2,036,000	Wakulla	No
93	Panacea Oyster Co-op	Value Added Oyster Processing	\$1,720,599	Wakulla	No
94	Bay Defense Alliance	Defense Technology Innovation Center	\$0	Bay	No
96	City of Pensacola	Unity Project	\$3,000,000	Escambia	Yes
97	City of Pensacola	Affordable Housing Program	\$15,000,000	Escambia	No

99	Walton County Sheriff	Public Safety Communications Training Fac	\$8,000,000	Walton	Yes
101	Alaqua Animal Refuge	Advanced Animal Medical Facility	\$1,750,000	Walton	No
102	Stone Clinical Laboratories	Clinical Lab and Training Facility	\$6,914,368	Walton	Yes
103	Medical Risk Solutions	Primary Care/Pharmacy	\$900,000	Walton	No
104	Flotilla 1-4	Multi-purpose Vessel	\$437,000	Okaloosa	No
106	Pens/Escambia PEDC	The Bluffs Corridor-Beck's Lake Rd Segment	\$8,000,000	Escambia	Yes
107	Destin Fisherman's Co-op	Fisherman's Boatyard Construction-Freeport	\$1,275,000	Walton	No
107.1	#107 Amended Destin Fisherman's Co-op	Fisherman's Boatyard Construction-Freeport	\$1,275,000	Walton	No
109	Walton County BOCC	Education and Research Center at Owls Head	\$10,000,000	Walton	Yes
110	St. Andrews Bay Center	The Ark of the Bay	\$584,743	Bay	Yes
111	Walton County School District	Emerald Coast Technical College	\$2,931,000	Walton	Yes
112	Lake Erie College Osteo Med	Academic Health Clinic Expansion	\$3,623,736	Walton	Yes
113	Finch Transportation	Walton County Transit System	\$2,190,000	Walton	No
114	Walton County BOCC	Broadband Initiative	\$900,000	Walton	Yes
115	City of Pensacola	Morris Court Complex	\$18,000,000	Escambia	Yes
116	The Seaside School, Inc.	STEM Center of Excellence	\$5,000,000	Walton	Yes
117	Bruce Craul/Dr. Mark Bonn	Hospitality Development Center	\$5,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
118	Ron & Peggy Childs	Port Theater & Cultural Center	\$60,000	Gulf	No
121	Quiq Silver	Comm. Kitchen Equip. Assembly Plant	\$6,120,000	Bay	No
122	Fish 2.0	Aquaculture Investment	\$250,000		No
123	FGNW				WD
124	Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge	Wildlife Recovery Funding	\$233,130	Multi	No
125	NWF Black Business Chamber	MLK Blvd Mixed Use Corridor	\$5,750,000	Bay	No
127	Pensacola Heritage Foundation	THE GÁLVEZ MONUMENT PROJECT	\$50,000	Escambia	No
128	Franklin County Schools	STEM in Education Program	\$720,000	Franklin	Yes
129	Franklin County Schools	Workforce Dev. And Voc Training	\$2,955,700	Franklin	Yes
130	Florida A&M University	Construction & Infra Tech Innovation Center	\$35,000,000	Multi	No
131	Pensacola State College	Co:Lab Expansion	\$5,000,000	Escambia	Yes
132	OWV Company, LLC	Sweetwater Springs Marketing	\$2,898,000	Santa Rosa	No
134	Coast Watch Alliance	Lion Fish Harvesting Program	\$1,121,600	Escambia	No
136	City of Laurel Hill	Water System Upgrades	\$872,662	Okaloosa	Yes
137	American Marine Research Co. & CWA	Protection for Marine Fisheries Against Lionfish	\$1,242,180	Escambia	No
138	Division of Aquaculture, FDACS	Shellfish Aquaculture Economic Incubator	\$750,000	Multi	No
139	Panama City Rescue Mission	Facility Construction and Remodeling	\$3,000,000	Bay	No
140	Opportunity Place, Inc	Shelter Services and Landscaping of Family Area	\$30,000	Okaloosa	No
141	St. Marks Refuge Association, Inc	Revised St. Marks Lighthouse Restoration Project	\$300,000	Wakulla	No
142	Panama City Beach Public Library	Community Program Room Expansion	\$200,000	Bay	No
144	North Bay Haven Career Academy	Athletic Field Complex Project	\$4,500,000	Bay	No
145	Emerald Coast Baseball League	Start-up Expenses	\$150,000	Walton	No
146	Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center	Construction of New Facility	\$1,800,000	Santa Rosa	No
149	Gulf District Schools	School Bus Fleet Expansion	\$600,000	Gulf	No
150	Hanning LLC DBA STEMWERX	STEMWERX Mobile STEM Lab	\$1,342,867	Multi	Yes
151	Biotech Restorations Holdings, LLC	Biotech Gulf Coast	\$4,000,000	Multi	No
152	Point Washington Medical Center	Operating Funds	\$0	Walton	No
156	Range Project LLC	Range Project	\$3,000,000	Walton	No
158	Biotility - University of Florida	Secondary Biotechnology CTE Programs	\$275,000	Multi	Yes
159	Panhandle Affordable Housing LLC	Walton County Workforce Housing	\$5,500,000	Walton	No
160	Casa Laxmi Foundation, Inc.	Centre for Excellence	\$20,000,000	Bay	No
162	CareerSource Gulf Coast	Triumph Workforce Consortium	\$22,283,836	Multi	Yes
164	The Joe Center for the Arts	Community Arts and Cultural Center	\$350,000	Gulf	No
165	Twin Rivers Land & Timber, Inc.	St. Joe Port Project	\$47,066,695	Gulf	No
166	Gulf County Board of County Commission	Local Government Funding Assistance	\$21,680,000	Gulf	Yes
170	N/A				
171	N/A				
172	Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc.	All-Service Military Retirement Village	\$172,000	Okaloosa	No
173	Port of Pensacola	Marine Modification Maintenance Repair Overhaul	\$16,329,406	Escambia	Yes
174	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Clear	\$7,350,000	Bay	Yes
175	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Purple	\$4,635,000	Bay	Yes
176	Fran Vellanti	Mental Health Out Patient Day Treatment Program		N/A	No
178	City of Apalachicola	Workforce Housing and Infrastructure	\$800,000	Franklin	Yes
179	The Oyster Restoration Company & Hatchery	Apalachicola Bay One Billion Oyster Restoration	\$15,000,000	Franklin	WD
181	Coastline Environmental Materials	Artificial Reef Creation Project	\$6,510,000	Franklin	WD
182	Port Authority of the Port of Port St. Joe	Dredging of Shipping Channel	\$15,000,000	Gulf	Yes
183	Liberty Fire District	Aerial Ladder Apparatus for North Walton County	\$720,000	Walton	Yes
184	Liberty Fire District	North Station	\$962,500	Walton	Yes
188	City of Lynn Haven	ACMT Tax Abatement	\$104,000	Bay	Yes
192	FSU Panama City	Engineering, Science, Technology & Workforce Center	\$14,700,000	Bay	Yes
193	City of Destin	Public Beach Initiative Project	\$12,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
194	Port Theater Art and Cultural Center	Art and Cultural Center	\$575,000	Gulf	Yes
195	City of Panama City	Panama City Marina Convention Center	\$40,000,000	Bay	Yes
196	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle-Thompson Airport Improvements	\$2,000,000	Franklin	Yes

197	Keep Pushing Foundation, Inc	Help Empower Our Youth	\$1,825,000	Okaloosa	No
199	The BioCarburante Company	Port St. Joe Biorefinery Project	\$25,250,000	Gulf	No
203	Earth Steps LLC	Renewable Energy Product Manufacturing	\$13,000,000	Wakulla	No
204	Rocky Bayou Christian School	STEM Training and Certifications	\$215,730	Okaloosa	Yes
208	Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc. ("REAP")	Re-Entry Workforce Training and Housing	\$2,500,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
212	Freedom Life Compass, Inc.	Life Recovery Center	\$150,000	Okaloosa	No
214	Project Star	Project Star	\$750,000	Walton	N/A
218	Bay District Schools/Haney Technical Center	Project Good Wrench Phase 1	\$2,498,475	Bay	Yes
219	Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport	Aviation Center of Excellence MRO Campus	\$35,178,050	Bay	Yes
220	City of Milton	Project Recall	\$6,000,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
225	FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Apalachicola Bay Oyster Aquaculture Training Program	\$75,000	Franklin	Yes
226	Economic Development Council of Okaloosa	Project Reese	\$34,822,786	Okaloosa	Yes
232	Northwest FL State College	GED Plus Program	\$793,560	Okaloosa	Yes
235	Andrews Research & Education Foundation	Center for Human Healthspan, Resilience & Performance	\$4,000,000	Santa Rosa	No
236	Franklin County Schools	Career and Technical Training, Phase III	\$6,585,568	Franklin	Yes
238	Okaloosa School District	Increasing Technology Capacity in CTE Labs	\$262,185	Okaloosa	Yes
239	Northwest Florida Supercomputer Research Group	Operation of Supercomputers	\$964,170	Okaloosa	No
241	Lamar West Townhomes HOA	Hurricane Sally Restoration	\$100,000	Okaloosa	No
242	Northwest Florida Supercomputer Research Group	Operation of Supercomputers	\$2,159,800	Okaloosa	No
247	Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation	Destin Aquatic Center	\$2,000,000	Okaloosa	No
248	Kuhn Strategic Consulting	Gulf Coast Digitized Campaign	\$254,100	ALL	No
250	Santa Rosa BOCC	Whiting Aviation Park Taxiway	\$8,200,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
252	Wakulla County BOCC	Project Game Stop	\$500,000	Wakulla	Yes
253	Bay County BOCC	Project Beacon	\$1,600,000	Bay	Yes
254	Center for Strategic Military Excellence	VETERAN EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER	\$2,410,893	Escambia	N/A
255	James B. Washington Education and Sports, Inc	James B. Washington Education and Sports Center	\$2,200,000	Escambia	No
256	Gulf Coast State College	Sea-X	\$2,561,226	Bay	Yes
260	The Arc of the Bay	Restaurant Readiness Program	\$250,000	Bay	N/A
262	Navarre Beach Fire Rescue	Project Safe and Sound	\$500,000	Santa Rosa	No
263	Northwest FL State College	Cloud Computing Industry Training	\$92,500	Okaloosa	Yes
266	Northwest FL State College	Career Acceleration Pathways for Early College Students	\$10,267,474	Okaloosa	Yes
267	Northwest FL State College	CDL Expansion	\$1,826,770	Okaloosa	Yes
268	Pensacola State College	A&P Expansion	\$10,700,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
272	HSU Educational Foundation	FieldWex	\$56,195,000	Okaloosa	N/A
277	DEFENSEWERX	Digital Engineering Center of Excellence	\$20,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
278	Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy	Educational Materials and Facility Upgrades	\$150,000	Walton	No
279	The Modern Vender	The Modern Vender	\$950,000	Bay	No
281	Jacob Cline Consulting LLC	Senior and Health Care Franchise	\$1,500,000	Bay	No
283	Roderwill Consulting Services	Aviation Operations Expansion	\$3,715	N/A	No
285	Port of Pensacola	Supply Chain Enhancement Project	\$53,048,217	Escambia	Yes
286	Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	Project SPARK	\$2,100,000	Escambia	Yes
287	Global Lynx, Inc.	Florida's Future IT Workforce Development	\$250,000	N/A	Yes
288	Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc.	Residential Transitional Facility	\$3,000,000.00	Escambia	No
289	Bay BOCC	Project Tachyon	\$5,250,000.00	Bay	Yes
292	Booker T. Washington High School	Chorus Carnegie Hall Trip	\$75,000	Escambia	No
294	Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	Project CORE	\$6,000,000	Escambia	N/A
295	Bay County Commission	Project Aqua	\$15,000,000	Bay	Yes
298	Destin High School	Career Academy Expansion	\$10,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
299	Pensacola State College	Diesel Mechanic Training	\$5,900,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
300	Okaloosa BOCC	Project Yellow	\$1,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
301	Transport America Project, Inc.	Triumph EV & Tech Edu & Training Center	\$20,000,000	ALL	No
302	Transport America Project, Inc.	Bay EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Bay	No
303	Transport America Project, Inc.	Escambia EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Escambia	No
304	Transport America Project, Inc.	Franklin EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Franklin	No
305	Transport America Project, Inc.	Gulf EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Gulf	No
306	Transport America Project, Inc.	Okaloosa EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Okaloosa	No
307	Transport America Project, Inc.	Santa Rosa EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Santa Rosa	No
308	Transport America Project, Inc.	Wakulla EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Wakulla	No
309	Transport America Project, Inc.	Walton EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Walton	No
310	The Leadership Hospital	Leadership Certificate Program	\$1,896,465	Bay	No
311	Goodwill Big Bend Foundation	Workforce Training	\$10,000,000	ALL	Yes
314	NERD Lab, LLC.	Materials Science & Engineering Experiences	\$500,000	Okaloosa	No
316	Navarre Beach Fire Rescue	Fire Rescue Boat	\$141,476	Santa Rosa	No

PreApp#	Closed	Applicant	Project	Amt Requester	County	Score	application Rec
Grants Awarded							
29	Yes	Wakulla County School Board	Career and Technical Education Center	\$3,926,867	Wakulla	A	02/12/18
49	Yes	Panama City Port Authority	PC Port Authority Eastern Terminal Dev.	\$10,000,000	Bay	A	02/23/18
120		City of Pensacola	Comm. Aircraft Maintenance Campus	\$66,000,000	Escambia	A	03/16/18
43		Okaloosa County	Hwy 90 East Water and Sewer Expansion	\$1,500,000	Okaloosa	A	03/22/18
143		Bay District Schools	HVAC	\$847,955	Bay	A	04/13/18
72		Santa Rosa County	Whiting Aviation Park	\$8,523,655	Santa Rosa	A	04/18/18
69		FSU Marine Lab	Apalachicola Bay System Initiative	\$7,998,678	Franklin	A	04/20/18
46		Okaloosa County	Southwest Crestview Bypass	\$64,100,000	Okaloosa	B	05/22/18
153		Gulf County School District	Unmanned Systems	\$710,000	Gulf	A	08/28/18
157		Franklin County School District	Franklin Environmental Career and Technical Training	\$2,327,322	Franklin	A	10/08/18
148		Gulf District Schools	Agri-Science Program Expansion	\$108,646	Gulf	A	11/05/18
98		Walton County Sheriff	Vocational/Technical Training Program	\$2,127,950	Walton	A	11/19/18
180		Gulf County School District	WHS Welding Program	\$250,000	Gulf	A	01/08/19
185		City of Panama City	Panama City Industrial Complex	\$20,000,000	Bay	A	02/20/19
186	Yes	Gulf County Board of County Commissi	Hurricane Michael Recovery Ad Valorem Request	\$4,271,683	Gulf	A	03/07/19
187		Northwest Florida State College	Walton Works Training Center of Excellence	\$2,856,216	Walton	A	03/07/19
189	Yes	Bay County Board of County Commissi	Hurricane Michael Recovery Ad Valorem Request	\$10,728,317	Bay	A	03/19/19
190	Yes	Walton Economic Development Allianc	US 331 Infrastructure	\$1,742,407	Walton	A	03/28/19
198		Wakulla County School Board	UAS/VSO Certification Program	\$2,160,000	Wakulla	A	05/19/19
200		Franklin County School District	Career and Technical Training, Phase II	\$1,265,000	Franklin	A	05/24/19
191		Franklin County BOCC	Apalachicola Regional Airport Fuel System Upgrade	\$2,311,182	Franklin	B	07/17/19
202		Gulf Coast State College - Gulf/Franklin	Tech Center for Emergency Response and Comms	\$4,649,001	Gulf	B	08/07/19
209		Santa Rosa County BOCC	Project Lionheart - Northwest Florida Insustrial Park	\$5,402,641	Santa Rosa	A	11/15/19
213		Florida's Great Northwest (FGNW)	Education ROI Research and Marketing	\$733,000	ALL	A	11/25/19
207		Gulf Coast State College - Gulf/Franklin	Nursing Simulation Center	\$2,200,358	Gulf	B+	12/04/19
210		Gulf Coast State College	UAS Pilot Boot Camp for Exiting Military	\$2,259,063	Gulf	B+	02/14/20
216		Northwest FL State College	Center of Aviation Excellence: Airframe & Powerplant	\$7,064,665	Okaloosa	A	02/14/20
215		Wakulla County School Board	Wakulla/Lively Tech A&P Cert Program	\$3,250,000	Wakulla	A	02/18/20
221	Yes	Locklin Technical College	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$182,000	Santa Rosa	A	02/21/20
222	Yes	Okaloosa Technical College	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$200,000	Okaloosa	A	02/21/20
223	Yes	Emerald Coast Technical College	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$164,000	Walton	A	02/23/20
224	Yes	Wakulla County School Board/Lively Te	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$142,000	Wakulla	A	02/24/20
217	Yes	AMikids Pensacola Inc.	AMikids Pensacola Workforce Development Program	\$408,000	Escambia	A	04/13/20
228	Yes	Pensacola State College	Infrastructure and Logistics Training Fund	\$74,000	Escambia	A	04/27/20
229	Yes	Tallahassee Community College	Infrastructure and Logistics Training Fund	\$200,500	Wakulla	A	04/28/20
227		Panama City Port Authority	Intermodal Distribution Center Expansion	\$3,000,000	Bay	A	04/29/20
48		Wakulla County	First Response Communications System	\$11,038,669	Wakulla	B	05/19/20
206		AMikids Panama City Marine Institute	STEM and Business Entrepreneurship Labs	\$1,747,500	Bay	A	06/15/20
230		Walton County School District	IT and Healthcare Certification Program	\$3,846,000	Walton	A	06/27/20
240		Santa Rosa County BOCC	Santa Rosa Industrial Park East	\$6,000,000	Santa Rosa	A	09/10/20
233		IHMC	Center for Human Healthspan, Resilience & Performance	\$19,866,356	Escambia	A	11/18/20
211		Pensacola State College	Logistics & Distribution: Ground Transportation	\$3,862,951	Santa Rosa	A	02/01/21
265		Florida State University - Panama City	FSU Panama City Collegiate High School	\$7,651,600	Bay	A	02/28/21
237		Port St. Joe Port Authority	Dredging of Shipping Channel	\$15,000,000	Gulf	A	03/11/21
243		Okaloosa Co School District	Artificial Intelligence Learning Institutes	\$2,840,000	Okaloosa	A	04/05/21
246		Florida State University - Panama City	ASCENT Cybersecurity and New Technologies	\$11,500,702	Bay	A	04/16/21
251		Santa Rosa BOCC	Milton Interchange Park	\$20,778,683	Santa Rosa	A	07/11/21
258		Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Lightning Strike	\$7,000,000	Bay	A	09/24/21
259		Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	PEDC-Project Pioneer	\$2,500,000	Escambia	A	10/06/21
257		Pensacola State College	Cyber Security and IT Programs Expansion	\$11,998,919	Escambia	A	10/22/21
264		Wakulla County School Board	War Eagle Career Academy	\$20,011,606	Wakulla	A	01/20/22
244		Bay District Schools	Thunderbird Tech Program	\$147,900	Bay	A	01/31/22
270		Northwest Florida State College	Nursing Program Expansion	\$21,787,560	Okaloosa	A	05/06/22
273		Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Cast	\$3,675,000	Bay	A	05/10/22
271		Okaloosa County School District	Health Academy of Northwest Florida	\$1,291,000	Okaloosa	A	05/31/22
276		Bay District Schools	Triumph Training Center	\$8,075,000	Bay	A	09/20/22
290		Escambia County BOCC	OLF-8 Phase 1 Infrastructure	\$14,200,000	Escambia	A	10/17/22
282		Gulf Coast State College	Nursing Simulation Center	\$32,307,048	Bay	B	11/15/22
291		Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	Project LASER	\$6,000,000	Escambia	A	11/22/22
296		Bay EDA	Project Maple	\$11,250,000	Bay	A	04/21/23
293		University of West Florida	Nursing and Respiratory Therapy	\$6,685,757	Escambia	B	04/24/23
315		City of Pensacola	American Magic at Port of Pensacola	\$8,500,000	Escambia	A	04/27/23
297		P.R.I.D.E Enterprises	Construction Trades Training Program	\$1,000,000	Escambia	A	07/27/23
318		Santa Rosa County District Schools	Santa Rosa Center for Innovation	\$9,000,000	Santa Rosa	A	09/01/23
319		Warrington Preparatory Academy	Rocketing to the Future: Phase 1	\$7,454,867	Escambia	A	09/18/23
312		Florida State University - Panama City	InSPIRE	\$98,453,615	Bay	B	10/20/23
326		Okaloosa County School District	Okaloosa Tech College North Campus Creation	\$8,350,000	Okaloosa	A	11/14/23
Current Applications							
275		Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc.	North Bay Haven Career Academy	\$6,000,000	Bay		02/03/22
54		Panama City Beach CVB	Sports Park/Stadium Complex	\$18,500,000	Bay		12/09/22
284		City of DeFuniak Springs	Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation	\$40,975,000	Walton		12/23/22
317		Pensacola State College	A&P	\$12,372,935	Escambia	A	11/13/23
322		Okaloosa County BCC	Project Sound	\$6,000,000	Okaloosa	A	11/21/23

320	VISIT FLORIDA	NWFL Beaches – Adventure Within Reach	\$10,500,000	ALL	A	12/04/23
331	Santa Rosa BOCC	Bagdad Distribution Building	\$7,164,000	Santa Rosa	A	01/17/24
332	Escambia County Public Schools	J.M. Tate High School	\$617,227	Escambia	A	3/6/2024
333	Franklin County BOCC	First Responder Communication System	\$9,200,000	Franklin	B	04/08/24
323	University of West Florida	Inst for Industry Advancement & Analytics (IA)2	\$8,410,221	Escambia	A	05/06/24
Archived Applications						
59	Bay District Schools	STEM Workforce Training Center	\$10,000,000	Bay	C	02/27/18
60	Bay District Schools	Manufacturing Academy Expansion	\$965,000	Bay	WD	02/27/18
61	Bay District Schools	Haney Industrial Pipefitter Prog Expansion	\$584,000	Bay	NA	02/27/18
83	City of St. Marks	ADA Compliant Kayak Launch	\$65,000	Wakulla	C	02/27/18
84	City of St. Marks	River Walk	\$1,295,000	Wakulla	C	02/27/18
28	Wakulla County School Board	Career and Prep Academy	\$5,396,521	Wakulla	WD	03/05/18
70	University of West Florida	Innovation Network Project	\$14,500,000	Escambia	WD	03/07/18
90	E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center	Camp Longleaf	\$600,000	Walton	C	03/07/18
11	Escambia County	Downtown Sports Complex	\$25,000,000	Escambia	C	03/08/18
65	Bay Youth Summer Work Fnd	BayYouth Summer Work Foundation	\$71,271	Bay	H	03/12/18
38	Okaloosa County	Bob Sikes Water Reclamation Facility	\$1,500,000	Okaloosa	C	03/22/18
44	Okaloosa County	N. Gulf of Mexico FAD Network	\$500,000	Okaloosa	C	03/22/18
5	Escambia Co. School Board	Workforce Education Director	\$2,329,303	Escambia	A	03/26/18
85	Westonwood Ranch	Autism Job Training Facility	\$1,078,230	Walton	C	04/03/18
14	Northwest FL State College	NWFSC Regional Trifecta Project	\$22,630,000	Multi	WD	04/09/18
135	Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of NWFL	Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project	\$11,273,070	Okaloosa	H	04/09/18
73	Santa Rosa County	NW FL Industrial Park@ I-10 - Phase 2	\$5,301,164	Santa Rosa	H	04/18/18
26	City of Apalachicola	Port of Apalachicola Improvements/Mgmt	\$1,100,000	Franklin	WD	05/04/18
58	City of Mexico Beach	Mexico Beach Pier	\$3,700,000	Bay	C	05/15/18
105	Project Lead The Way	STEM Training	\$4,000,000	Multi	C	05/18/18
9	FL Comm. Svcs Corp - Utility	US 331 Water Transmission Line - Phase One	\$4,410,114	Walton	C	05/22/18
27	Gulf County BOCC	Port of Port St Joe Project	\$28,425,000	Gulf	WD	05/22/18
32	City of Apalachicola	Johnson Center Renovations	\$1,750,000	Franklin	C	05/30/18
35	City of Apalachicola	Stormwater/Wastewater Improvements	\$2,660,000	Franklin	C	05/30/18
133	FGNW	RISE Fund	\$15,000,000	Multi	C	05/30/18
20	Franklin County BOCC	Fort Coombs Armory Renovation	\$1,800,000	Franklin	C	06/06/18
55	Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc.	EastShip Manufacturing/Haul Out Facilities	\$20,025,000	Bay	A	06/06/18
119	Smart Horizons COHS	Career Online High School (revised)	\$1,816,562	Multi	C	06/21/18
4	City of Pensacola	CDOT-Port of Pensacola	\$15,000,000	Escambia	A	06/22/18
10	Base IT, Inc.	Mobile STEM Workshops	\$170,000	Bay	C	06/28/18
19	City of Niceville	Niceville Landing Project	\$180,000	Okaloosa	C	06/28/18
56	City of Lynn Haven	Sports Park Expansion	\$15,843,762	Bay	C	07/13/18
108	Walton County BOCC	US 331 & US 90 Water/Wastewater Expansio	\$14,247,468	Walton	C	08/14/18
147	Gulf District Schools	Culinary Arts Center and Electives Suite	\$300,000	Gulf	H	08/30/18
95	Gulf Specimens Marine Lab	Infrastructure Upgrades and Operations	\$4,950,000	Wakulla	C	09/09/18
1	Bryant Enterprises (BEOP)	Curriculum Development	\$585,000	Multi	F	09/15/18
126	Hsu Educational Foundation	Hsu Innovation Institutes	\$7,160,000	Multi	H	09/18/18
64	Gulf Coast State College	Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Inst.	\$17,112,356	Bay	WD	09/27/18
87	City of Milton	N. Santa Rosa Reg. Water Reclamation Fac.	\$9,000,000	Santa Rosa	C	10/05/18
34	City of Apalachicola	Apalachicola Solar Project	\$900,000	Franklin	C	11/16/18
91	Tallahassee Comm College	WEI Ocean Shellfish Nursery Hatchery Processing Fa	\$13,500,000	Wakulla	C	11/28/18
167	Tallahassee Community College	WEI Unmanned Vehicle Systems Center of Excellenc	\$1,959,382	Wakulla	B	11/29/18
168	Tallahassee Community College	WEI Elevated Technology Training (ETT ²)	\$2,593,083	Wakulla	C	11/29/18
100	Veterans Lodge	Veterans Lodge Village	\$25,000,000	Walton	F	12/07/18
177	Tallahassee Community College	WEI Marine Service Occupational Training Program	\$1,500,000	Wakulla	WD	12/13/18
154	Panacea Oyster Co-op	Wakulla Oyster and Aquaculture Expansion	\$19,241,000	Wakulla	WD	02/01/19
169	City of Lynn Haven	Industrial Park Expansion	\$15,764,360	Bay	H	02/27/19
161	Children's Home Society of Florida	Creating Tomorrow's Workforce with Weis	\$3,283,484	Escambia	C	06/28/19
163	Santa Rosa County	Project Runner Ad Valorem Tax Reduction	\$3,500,000	Santa Rosa	H	07/26/19
205	Santa Rosa County BOCC	Project Runner Infrastructure	\$4,500,000	Santa Rosa	WD	07/29/19
201	Wakulla County	Wakulla Community Hub	\$9,625,148	Wakulla	WD	09/30/19
155	City of Mexico Beach	Artificial Reef	\$970,000	Bay	C	01/06/20
231	Northwest Florida Beaches Internationa	Project Gator	\$4,780,800	Bay	WD	07/07/20
234	Walton Economic Development Allianc	Woodlawn Industrial Park - 7/23	\$471,500	Walton	WD	11/17/20
245	Florida A&M University	AI and Data Science Edu and Training in Aquaculture	\$8,430,136	Okaloosa		04/06/21
249	Gulf County Board of County Commissi	Floating Drydock	\$26,000,000	Gulf	WD	05/12/21
261	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Arrow	\$2,000,000	Bay	WD	03/25/22
269	Holy Nativity Episcopal School	Applied Computer Science and Engineering Center	\$1,140,000	Bay	WD	05/03/22
280	Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	Project Arbor	\$1,500,000	Escambia	WD	06/07/22
274	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Embry-Riddle Okaloosa	\$52,980,000	Okaloosa	WD	06/09/22
313	Bay EDA	Project Stamper	\$90,000,000	Bay	WD	05/05/23

2024 Spring Review of Annual Grant Award Reports

Triumph Staff reviewed the information provided by Grantees with projects due for annual review under s. 288.8016 , F.S. and recommended the following determinations which were accepted by the Triumph Board.

s. 288.8016, F.S. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; duties.

(3) Monitor, review, and annually evaluate awardees and their projects or programs to determine whether an award should be continued, terminated, reduced, or increased. Staff recommended to continue to fund the following grant:

69 Florida State University, Apalachicola Bay Systems Initiative Triumph Grant Award – \$7,998,678
Grantee Match – \$1,501,323 Total Project Cost- \$9,500,001

Executive Summary of Annual Report Attached. The full Annual Report can be found at <https://www.myfloridatriumph.com/proposal-details/534/>

ANNUAL REPORT TO TRIUMPH GULF COAST INC.

Project #69: Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI)

Awardee: Florida State University

Reporting Period: March 15, 2023-March 15, 2024

Since the project inception in March 2019, five of the nine ABSI objectives have been completed, while others are either continuous (i.e. will continue for the life of the project) or are ongoing as there are elements of these tasks that are still to be completed. The reasons for the latter are in part due to the Covid restrictions during the critical early phases of the project. There were delays in hiring staff and initiating construction planning for the shellfish hatchery. In addition, there were restrictions on field work and laboratory processing throughout 2020, which slowed the progress of understanding the status of the oyster populations and designing restoration experiments. Despite these delays, we have not yet requested a time extension on this project.

Other challenges were encountered with the temporary shellfish hatchery (a small greenhouse that lacked adequate temperature control) and water quality issues, which have since been resolved. The permanent hatchery was completed in early 2023 and we produced oyster juveniles for restoration. Unfortunately, the severely depleted status of the oyster reefs in Apalachicola Bay did not provide an appropriate test substrate for the ‘proof of concept’ of this approach and our experiments were inconclusive. In Spring 2024, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission will be deploying over 60 acres of limestone material as part of their Apalachicola Bay restoration effort. This material will provide a stable test bed that will allow us to evaluate the efficacy of using hatchery juveniles for oyster population recovery. A summary list of the status of ABSI deliverables is below, and more information can be found in the project Annual Reports on the FSUCML ABSI website¹.

Summary of status of ABSI deliverables

- Assess temporal and spatial changes in the status of oyster communities: ***Complete***
- Construct a pilot scale oyster hatchery: ***Complete***
- Create a Bio-physical Model: ***Complete***
- Analyze oyster population genetic structure: ***Complete***
- Develop a Management and Restoration Plan for the ABS: ***Complete***
- Monitor oyster communities and their environment: ***Continuous***
- Conduct targeted outreach to the community: ***Continuous***
- Conduct Experimental Ecology Studies: ***Ongoing***
- Create a Coupled Ecosystem-Life History Model: ***Ongoing***

In March 2024, the ABSI leadership requested a project amendment to extend the end date to December 31 2024, and re-budget the remaining funds to accommodate the work planned during the extension. The amendment was approved by the Triumph Gulf Coast Board on April 10, 2024. The requested time extension of 18 months will allow us to complete the remaining deliverables and take advantage of opportunities to enhance the outcomes of our ongoing work. Work proposed during the extension period is detailed in **Appendix 1**

¹ <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/>

The fully executed ABSI Grant Award Agreement included a performance metric (8.3c) that stipulated provision of assistance and support to local business that were affected by the oyster population decline. In addition to Covid restrictions throughout 2020, our progress on business engagement was further limited by the continued decline and subsequent closure of the oyster fishery at the end of 2020. Many harvesters had moved on to other fisheries or occupations after the oyster collapse, and uncertainty remains as to when, or whether, oyster populations will recover sufficiently to support a commercially viable fishery. The Apalachicola Bay oyster fishery was declared a Federal Fishery Disaster in 2013 and millions of dollars were spent on oyster restoration. Despite this investment, oyster populations continued to decline and in 2020 the fishery was closed for five years to allow populations to recover.

Restoration research conducted by ABSI developed improved restoration designs that have supported oyster recruitment and growth and provided a better understanding of optimal restoration elements: stability, persistence, reef height and predator refuge. The ABSI restoration approach has been adopted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for their large scale 2024 restoration project (~90 acres). Because of these improved restoration methods, there is reason for optimism that the oysters could recover sufficiently to support a fishery. Since the oyster fishery collapse, Franklin County has shifted more towards tourism and away from its traditional fisheries-dependent economy, and oyster aquaculture has expanded to help fill market demand for Apalachicola oysters.

We have engaged the Florida State University Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship to address ABSI performance metric (8.3c), and work with the Franklin County community to re-invigorate the traditional working waterfront culture and economy. **Appendix 2** provides details of their proposal, which is designed to be completed within the requested 18-month time extension.

APPENDIX 1

Completion of remaining ABSI deliverables during the extension period (June 25th, 2024-December 31st, 2025)

1. Monitor oyster communities and their environment.

For the past three years, ABSI has conducted bay-wide subtidal oyster population surveys using hand tongs through collaboration with a local oyster harvester. These tong surveys are quicker and less weather dependent than the diver surveys used by FDEP and FWC. They can be processed more rapidly and do not require trained divers. Samples are collected and either processed immediately on the vessel, or if the samples are large, they are brought to the ABSI laboratory, processed, and taken back to the Bay alive within a week of sampling. We are in the process of preparing a publication on ABSI (2020-2023) tonging data which documents spatial and temporal conditions in oyster populations across the Bay since the fishery closed in December 2020.

In spring 2024, we will focus on intensive sampling of the limited locations in the Bay that support oysters (those planted with limerock in 2016 and 2021), with the goal of collecting high resolution data on oyster population distributions at these sites. The proposed extension will enable us to collect, analyze data and prepare a technical report on the status of oysters in the Bay. These data will be made available to the public and resource management agencies to inform fishery management decisions.

In spring 2024, the FWC will be conducting a pilot project that will deploy 30 one-acre limerock reefs (26 for FWC, four for ABSI) and ~ 60 acres of low relief (~ 6 inches) limerock restoration areas. The FWC will monitor their deployments using divers but will primarily focus on the smaller reefs. During the proposed extension, we will survey the 2024 FWC larger low relief restoration areas, in fall 2024 and spring and fall 2025 to supplement the FWC monitoring data and provide additional information on oyster populations on the newly restored habitat.

2. Conduct targeted outreach to the community.

Community outreach has always been a major component of ABSI, with a dedicated web presence² within the FSUCML website. The ABSI outreach will continue for the duration of the project through social media, web-based information, and in-person representation at festivals and other events in Franklin and Wakulla Counties. Science updates will continue at Franklin County and City Commission meetings and other civic groups as needed.

3. Continue experimental ecology studies.

This category includes most of the research conducted under ABSI, the details of which are in the annual reports on the ABSI research webpage³. Some of the research is thematic (e.g. system ecology, disease dynamics, restoration ecology) and will continue beyond the life of ABSI with support from FSU and external funding. Other projects have specific end points, particularly the graduate student research. Of the nine students working on ABSI projects, six are expected to graduate after the current scheduled ABSI end date. An extension and budget revision of the ABSI funds will support graduate student fieldwork, sample processing, and data analysis for an additional 18 months, allowing them to maintain productivity, publish their research and participate in public presentations and outreach.

² <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/>

³ <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/research/>

In addition, there are three focal areas of research that will be completed during the extension period.

- a. *Assess the value of hatchery oysters in population recovery:*** The ABSI hatchery has produced spat on shell and seed for experiments to determine the efficacy of using this approach to enhance oyster population recovery; however, these have been marginally successful because the substrate in the Bay is unstable, and our experiments were buried and/or lost. The FWC has provided ABSI with exclusive use of four acres of high relief (12 inches) reefs and access to the larger low relief (6 inches) areas to conduct experiments and continue monitoring oyster populations on restored areas across the Bay. The new reefs will provide stable substrate for evaluating the use of spat-on-shell for restoration and conducting other experiments using hatchery oysters.
- b. *Develop framework for Apalachicola Bay Report Card:*** Part of the ABSI mission is to understand the overall health of the Apalachicola Bay System. Although several research projects address elements of this question, we have not taken a holistic approach to this complex issue. Members of the Franklin County Commission have requested a routinely updated index to track the condition of the Bay, so during the ABSI extension, we will develop the framework for an ecosystem “Report Card” for the ABS. Creation of ecological Report Cards has been applied to restored and recovering estuaries to assign objective measures of health. Dr. Breithaupt (ABSI faculty) will conduct a local to global review of coastal report cards to identify: 1) the variables that are tracked, 2) the stakeholders and process involved in deciding on a variables that are meaningful to each ecosystem, 3) the data collection entities, 4) the frequency of Report Card production, 5) the spatial and temporal resolution of the reporting units, and 6) the logistical processes of collecting, standardizing, and evaluating the data in a way that can be understood by stakeholders. A secondary part of the report will evaluate how many of these data types are already collected for Apalachicola Bay and identify data gaps. Deliverables will be a review of Report Card creation processes and a road map for implementing an ecological report card for the Apalachicola Bay System. The review will help the new community stakeholder group, the Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay, to implement a regional Report Card. This tool will help evaluate the ecological, economic, and cultural well-being of the ABS.
- c. *Shell recycling for reef replenishment:*** Reef replenishment using natural shell is a traditional component of oyster fishery management and essential to habitat maintenance under harvest. The Apalachicola Bay shell retention and replenishment program closed in 2011 and has not been replaced. Shell recycling programs in other areas have replaced government funded programs and generated significant and sustained funding streams that provide employment (including creation of new businesses) and material for oyster reef restoration. A small shell recycling program (OYSTER: Offer Your Shells To Enhance Restoration) is operated through Franklins Promise OysterCorps⁴ program and reclaims shells from 2-3 area restaurants. This program has the potential to generate additional jobs for Franklin County youth and replace, in part, the previous reef replenishment program. A recent review of shell recycling programs⁵ identified several strategies to increase the capacity of this program, engage and retain more

⁴ <https://franklinspromisecoalition.wildapricot.org/page-18183>

⁵ <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/research/oyster-shell-recycling-review/>

restaurants and encourage the public to recycle their shells. We will work with the OysterCorps during the proposed extension period to support and enhance their recycling efforts, and to help obtain additional funding to maintain and expand the program.

4. Create a Coupled Ecosystem-Life History Model.

Three models have been or are being developed by ABSI: 1) freshwater flow, 2) bio-physical and 3) habitat suitability. Aspects of these models have been incorporated into the others as where appropriate; for example, the freshwater model informs the hydrodynamic model, which incorporates ABSI oyster physiology data to create a larval dispersal model. Outputs from the combined models will be used in the oyster habitat suitability model, which is the focus of a Ph.D. student dissertation.

An oyster population model developed by our collaborator Dr. Ed Camp (University of Florida) was developed to model management strategies as requested by the ABSI Community Advisory Board. Dr. Fabio Caltabellotta (ABSI Postdoc) developed a decision support tool that can be used through cell phones and computers. This tool uses Dr. Camps' model to develop a user-friendly public interface that will allow resource managers and the public to explore the effects of different management strategies on oyster populations in the Bay. This application was incomplete when Dr. Caltabellotta left for a permanent position. Dr. Camp has agreed to finish this project so the app is widely available to the public. This tool will be invaluable as the restoration process unfolds and the need for mid-stream adjustments in management strategies arise.