

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TAKES FLIGHT

SKILLED TALENT. STRATEGIC SITES. STABLE TAX CLIMATE.

WORKFORCE READY FOR TAKEOFF

Northwest Florida is meeting the growing demand for aviation talent. Through **Northwest Florida State College's Aviation Center of Excellence at Crestview Technology Air Park**, the region is producing certified Airframe Mechanics, Aircraft Powerplant Mechanics and pilots — all prepared to support both new and expanding aviation operations.



We partner with industry to deliver exactly what employers need — not just what's required. Our programs go beyond federal standards to train students in real-world skills like precision wire termination for advanced avionics. We're evolving every day to keep pace with the industry and ensure our graduates are job-ready from day one.

CHRISTOPHER ABADIA

DIRECTOR OF AVIATION PROGRAMS
NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH SOARING RESULTS.

The Center is backed by a coalition of partners including Northwest Florida State College, the HSU Educational Foundation, Okaloosa County, Triumph Gulf Coast, the Florida Department of Transportation and the U.S. Air Force. Partnerships that have proven to be successful in developing the talent companies need, want and retain.

GROWING LABOR MARKET WITH PROVEN DEMAND.

Florida is one of the top states for aircraft mechanic employment, and demand is rising. The region has seen a 4.4% increase in aircraft manufacturing over the past five years. With multiple military bases, a growing MRO presence and a strong talent pipeline, Northwest Florida offers immediate and long-term workforce advantages.

WE DON'T JUST SAY WE'RE READY, WE'RE INVESTING TO PROVE IT.

Through the Triumph Gulf Coast Fund, the only incentive program of its kind, we're fueling that growth by investing more than \$650 million in our Northwest Florida region, creating the talent and infrastructure you need to move faster and grow stronger.

HITTING  OUR TARGETS



AVIATION IN OUR REGION

BUILT ON HISTORY.
MANUFACTURED
FOR SUCCESS.

With six major military installations, Northwest Florida has attracted innovators with their eyes on the sky for generations. We are home to:

16

Aircraft Manufacturing

13

Aircraft Parts and Auxiliary Equipment Manufacturing

11

Search, Detection, Navigation, Guidance, Aeronautical, and Nautical System and Instrument Manufacturing

9

Guided Missile and Space Vehicle Manufacturing

8

Aircraft Engine and Engine Parts Manufacturing

TOP EMPLOYERS



REGIONAL TRAINING NETWORK

In addition to Northwest Florida State College, aviation training is offered at George Stone Technical College in Pensacola, Tom P. Haney Technical College in Panama City and the Apalachicola Regional Airport, Wakulla High School and Lively Technical College in Crawfordville, delivering talent from one end of the region to the other.

BY THE NUMBERS

MEETING MARKET DEMANDS



\$68,200

Aircraft mechanics earn \$68,200 locally. Boeing forecasts 610,000 new aviation techs needed by 2041, with Northwest Florida ready to meet demand.

TRUSTED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS



2,000+

Over 2,000 residents work in Air Transportation, a 4% increase in 5 years, supporting firms like ST Engineering, Mercury Systems, and others.

HIGH-VALUE CERTIFICATES



5,000

Nearly 5,000 aviation certifications will be earned in the next decade at \$3,964 each, including in-demand skills like mechanics and pilots, helping employers quickly access talent.

TOP FIVE FACTS

Continuing to add momentum since 2018, the results speak for themselves. Our numbers prove that when strong partnerships meet bold innovation, success follows.

- 01** Triumph Gulf Coast is a **\$1.5 billion** competitive economic development fund.
- 02** The fund mitigates risks and provides **speed-to-market value** through workforce training and infrastructure investments.
- 03** As of 2025, Triumph has deployed **more than \$815M** to nearly 90 projects, more than \$329M in infrastructure and more than \$346M in workforce, and nearly 89,000 industry certifications.
- 04** The fund **builds on statewide benefits**. Florida has no state income tax and is ranked the #2 state for business and the #4 best state business tax climate in 2024.
- 05** Collaborating with regional and local partners, **Northwest Florida offers lower costs** and a better delivery system in a desirable location.

\$1.5 BILLION

guaranteed economic development grant funding

\$80 MILLION

annually through 2033

HOW TO USE THE FUND

The fund alleviates business risks in three categories.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Supports strategic infrastructure needs, including the construction of public assets such as buildings, roads, and utilities.

SITE READINESS

Funds due diligence, site clearing, engineering, and permitting to reduce development timelines and increase speed to market.

WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT

Develops industry-driven workforce and education training programs to build the local talent pipeline ready for employment.

