



Office of the City Manager

April 8, 2025

Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners
1600 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236

Re: Support for Sarasota Resiliency Workforce Development Grant

I am writing to express my strong support for Suncoast Technical College's application for Sarasota Resiliency funding to expand its trade worker training programs.

Hurricane Ian significantly impacted our community, and the rebuilding process presents a unique opportunity to invest in our workforce and strengthen North Port's future. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, we face a critical need for skilled tradespeople in construction and related fields.

Suncoast Technical College (STC) has a proven track record of providing high-quality, career-focused training programs. Your focus on trades aligns perfectly with our city's current needs and will equip residents with the necessary skills to participate in the reconstruction efforts and contribute to North Port's ongoing development.

We are particularly impressed by STC program's commitment to serving low- and moderate-income individuals. This focus ensures that the benefits of training and career opportunities are accessible to a broad segment of our community, promoting economic mobility and long-term resilience.

The City of North Port staff fully supports Suncoast Technical College's application for Sarasota Resiliency funding. We believe this program will play a vital role in rebuilding our City, creating a skilled workforce, and fostering a thriving economy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my office if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A. Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, MPA
City Manager