WHEREAS, new educational programs require approval of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 508, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE);

WHEREAS, an application for approval for a new College to Careers program, comprising a Combined Dual-Admission Program with Northern Illinois University where upon completion, Malcolm X College will award an Advanced Certificate in Physician Assistant Studies, has been received and has been appropriately reviewed for submission; and

WHEREAS, the industry for Health and Therapeutic Services includes multiple career paths and employment opportunities, which includes, occupations such Physician Assistants, Surgical Assistants and Occupational Therapists. The Healthcare industry is experiencing growth in the number of technicians and assistants utilized in the delivery of patient care or support services. Additionally, as concerns about cost containment in healthcare expand, the role of technicians and assistants continues to expand as they offer alternatives to more expensive providers of care. This program is designed to provide students with the instructional training needed for entry-level positions in hospitals and other healthcare facilities where operative procedures are performed or where physicians and surgeons are employed. Employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 38 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Increased demand for healthcare services from the growing and aging population and widespread chronic disease, combined with a shortage of physicians, will result in increased demand for healthcare providers, such as physician assistants;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Community College District No 508, Cook County and State of Illinois, hereby approves the submission of this program for permanent approval by the Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Board of Higher Education.

December 11, 2014 – Office of Academic Affairs