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); and

WHEREAS, an application for approval of the City Colleges of Chicago Basic Certificate in Aviation Maintenance Technician – General and Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance has been received and is under review by the Joint Curriculum Development Council for submission; and

WHEREAS, the demand for aviation mechanics is being driven by projected new aircraft delivery over the next twenty years, as well as an aging workforce. City Colleges is working directly with the Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM), AAR Corp, and Southern Illinois University (SIU) to develop rigorous, industry-validated curriculum to prepare students to become Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified technicians and be able to transfer to SIU to complete their Bachelors in Aviation Maintenance Management once they are employed; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the basic certificate, students will be eligible to take the FAA Aviation Maintenance Technician certification exam, and upon completion of the associate of applied science, students will be eligible to take the FAA Aviation Maintenance Technician Airframe and Powerplant exams. The partnership with AIM and AAR will allow high school juniors and seniors to enroll in the basic certificate courses through the Early College program. The basic certificate, general education, sheet metal apprenticeship, and the Airframe and Powerplant coursework supports completion of the associate in applied science; and

WHEREAS, labor market data shows strong demand for Aviation Maintenance Technicians, with 321 average annual openings in Cook County and with projected growth of 9% over the next 10 years. Aviation Maintenance Technicians earn entry-level wages of $16.25/hour or $33,794 annually and median wages of $35.38/hour or $73,586 annually (Emsi Q1 2021).
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 508, County of Cook and State of Illinois, hereby approves the submission of this program for approval by the Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Board of Higher Education, pending completion of Proposed Academic Curriculum Changes (PACC) process per Academic Policy 9.02.

March 4, 2021 – Office of Academic and Student Affairs