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ADOPTED – BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
MARCH 6, 2025

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION
APPLICATION FOR NEW PROGRAMS
BASIC CERTIFICATE IN URBAN AGRICULTURAL STUDIES
THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
OLIVE-HARVEY COLLEGE

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

WHEREAS, an application for approval of the City Colleges of Chicago Basic Certificate in Urban Agricultural Studies has been received and appropriately reviewed/is under review by the Joint Curriculum Development Council for submission; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Agriculture Department is approaching two years of active presence at Olive Harvey College. After the development and approval of the Cannabis Studies programs, the department wishes to continue the development of the department with the Urban Agriculture Studies programs.

WHEREAS, The development of the Urban Agriculture Studies programs is to: investigate and evaluate the techniques of incorporating food production systems in the urban environment, gain a holistic view of using urban space to grow fresh foods for quick access to urban populations, and discover the practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in and around cities.; and

WHEREAS, labor market data and employer partners indicate strong demand for employment in the Urban Agriculture sector in Cook County, which is home to over 12,000 acres of farmland in Cook County that generates nearly \$20 million in economic activity. Median hourly earnings for farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse in Cook County are \$17.36, with a projected 130 annual openings through 2035 (Lightcast). The job market for individuals earning a Basic Certificate in Urban Agriculture also allows for growing opportunities in urban farming, sustainable food production, environmental management, and community-focused agriculture. Graduates are well-positioned for roles such as Urban Agriculture Instructors, which offer competitive salaries starting at over \$20 per hour, and leadership positions in programs like the Gary Comer Youth Center’s year-long Comer Crops Youth Farm internship.

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 permanent approval by the Illinois Community

College Board, pending completion of Proposed Academic Curriculum Changes (PACC) process per Academic Policy 9.02.

March 6, 2025 – The Office of Academic and Student Affairs