APPROVED
August 13, 2025
Melissa Bealon
Board Secretary Melissa Bealon

Item #D-3
August 13, 2025

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval of five new associate degree programs to be offered at five community colleges.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves the following programs at the colleges indicated:

Harper College
- Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing

McHenry County College
- Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Morton College
- Associate of Applied Science in Digital Art and Design

Rend Lake College
- Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Technology

Southwestern Illinois College
- Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Electronics Technology

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By statute, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is responsible for approving new associate degree programs proposed by public community colleges. The Board's approval criteria, defined in administrative rules, address relevance to college mission, academic control, faculty and staff, support services, financial resources, student demand, employer demand, curriculum, and congruence with IBHE policies and priorities. Before a recommendation for approval of an associate degree program is submitted to the IBHE for approval, staff of the IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board review the proposal. Once agreement is reached on a proposal having met the approval criteria, a recommendation for approval is presented to each board. In addition to the approval criteria in rules, each new program was reviewed for its contributions to the goals of the higher education strategic plan, *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*, which sets forth priorities to guide Illinois higher education. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials and responses to staff questions.

Executive Summary

Harper College

- Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing

Harper College is seeking approval for a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing. The program will prepare students for entry-level employment and advancement opportunities using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cloud Computing technology in a variety of settings. The curriculum requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 45 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in introductory artificial intelligence, information technology fundamentals, Python programming for AI, introductory machine learning, introductory generative AI, applications of AI, natural language processing, data-centric AI, AI for computer vision, computer networking, cybersecurity fundamentals, IT project management, fundamentals of Azure, Amazon Web Service/Cloud AI, careers in AI/Machine learning/Cloud computing, and a required AI capstone project. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance on the capstone project which incorporates experiential/work-based learning experiences through a real-world project associated with a local industry partner.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment ****.

McHenry County College

- Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

McHenry County College is seeking approval for a 68-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The program will prepare students for employment as registered diagnostic medical sonographers in a variety of healthcare settings. The curriculum requires 22 credit hours of required general education coursework, 37 credit hours of career and technical education coursework, and nine credit hours in diagnostic medical sonography

clinical practice. This excludes eight credit hours of general education pre-requisite coursework in biology, anatomy, and physiology. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in medical terminology, introductory sonography, patient care skills, introductory and advanced levels of abdominal sonography, cross-sectional anatomy for diagnostic imaging, introductory and advanced levels of sonographic physics and instrumentation, introductory and advanced levels of obstetrics and gynecology sonography, introductory and advanced levels of vascular sonography, sonography of superficial structures, professional issues in diagnostic medical sonography, and three levels of diagnostic medical sonography clinical practice. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance during the clinical learning experience and the practice registration exam.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment ****.

Morton College

- Associate of Applied Science in Digital Art and Design

Morton College is seeking approval for a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Digital Art and Design. The program will prepare students for entry-level employment in graphic design studios, advertising agencies, and marketing agencies. The curriculum requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework, 39 credit hours of career and technical education coursework, and six credit hours of related technical electives. Coursework includes instruction in drawing, 2D and 3D fundamentals, digital photography, introductory digital art, art history, introductory and advanced levels of graphic design, typography, digital illustration, print and digital production, digital media design, and a required work-based learning experience in graphic design. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance on the comprehensive capstone assignment and work-based learning experience.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment ****.

Rend Lake College

- Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Technology

Rend Lake College is seeking approval for a 64-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Agricultural Technology. The program will prepare students for entry-level employment with businesses that sell, install, maintain, and repair equipment and technology used in agricultural services. The curriculum requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 49 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in soil science, crop science, agricultural economics, agricultural chemicals, agriculture technologies, auto applications in agriculture, agricultural technology software applications, circuit fundamentals and digital logic, field calibration of equipment, applicator equipment operations, field computer systems, agricultural retail sales, introductory digital farm management, farm data management and analytics, and a required work-based learning experience in agricultural technology. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance during the work-based learning experience.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment ****.

Southwestern Illinois College

- Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Electronics Technology

Southwestern Illinois College is seeking approval for a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Aviation Electronics Technology. The program will prepare students with training in aviation electronics technology (also known as avionics technology) to install, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair communication and navigation equipment used in private and commercial planes. The curriculum includes 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 45 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. The career and technical component includes instruction in human factors in aviation, introductory alternating current (AC) maintenance practices, introductory AC electricity and electronics, math for electronics, aircraft/avionics electrical power, avionics installation/harness manufacturing, avionics installation techniques, Very high frequency (VHF) navigation and communication equipment, communication/navigation installation, aircraft transponder/automated dependent surveillance-broadcast systems, pilot static systems, and installation of global positioning systems/electronic flight information displays. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance on the capstone project during the final semester.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment ****.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Harper College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to McHenry County College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Morton College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Digital Art and Design, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Rend Lake College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Technology, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Southwestern Illinois College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Electronics Technology, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067
President: Dr. Avis Proctor

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing

Program Purpose

The program will prepare students for entry-level employment and advancement opportunities using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cloud Computing technology in a variety of settings.

Catalog Description

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing prepares students with a strong foundation in applied Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning, and Cloud concepts, techniques and applications. Artificial Intelligence is perceiving, synthesizing, and inferring information demonstrated by machines as opposed to intelligence displayed by human beings. Cloud computing is the on-demand availability of computer system resources, especially data storage (cloud storage) and computing power without direct management by the user. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be prepared for jobs in the AI and Cloud sectors.

Curricular Information

The curriculum requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 45 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in introductory artificial intelligence, information technology fundamentals, Python programming for AI, introductory machine learning, introductory generative AI, applications of AI, natural language processing, data-centric AI, AI for computer vision, computer networking, cybersecurity fundamentals, IT project management, fundamentals of Azure, Amazon Web Service/Cloud AI, careers in AI/Machine learning/Cloud computing, and a required AI capstone project. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance on the capstone project which incorporates experiential/work-based learning experiences through a real-world project associated with a local industry partner.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

N/A

Accrediting Information

Harper College (the College) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. No additional program accreditation is required to offer the proposed program.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

Harper College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes programs in this field of study. The College currently utilizes multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups in an effort to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Targeted efforts include focusing on attracting, recruiting, and retaining a diverse population of students with a particular focus on females and students in the district's Latinx and Black communities. Harper College further provides a multitude of services for assisting students with program completion through various student support services available on campus and virtually. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and administration through diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training for search committees, advertising to diverse audiences, reviewing existing policies and practices, and providing access to

DEI support activities throughout the year. The College will intentionally expose students to a diverse set of faculty within the classroom and provide opportunities for students to learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds who work within the industry.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports student interest in the proposed field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), growth in the employment of related information technology occupations is expected to increase by around 7.2 percent statewide through 2032. The proposed program is an outgrowth of the Strengthening Community Colleges (SCC3) Training Grant and seeks to increase representation of women in information technology programs. This grant supports the development of programs in emerging technologies.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Wipro	Chicago Metro/Suburban Locations, IL
ISECOM	Chicago Metro/Suburban Locations, IL
CyberFortify Consulting, LLC	Streamwood, IL
Vistex	Hoffman Estates, IL
HALOCK Security Labs	Schaumburg, IL
Kraft Heinz	Chicago Metro/Suburban Locations, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

AI & Cloud Computing AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	5	10	15
Part-Time Enrollments:	10	20	30
Completions:	0	4	15

Financial and Budgetary Information

One new full-time and four new part-time faculty will be necessary to implement the program. Qualified faculty will hold at least a bachelor's degree in AI, Cloud Computing or a closely related field; hold AI Credentials such as Customer and Account Information Systems (CAIS), Certified AI Scientist, or Certified AI Engineer from AI Board of America (ARTiBA); and, have at least one year of work experience along with one year of teaching experience preferred. This program will be fiscally supported through the SCC3 Training Grant, and student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	$70,200	$168,000	$196,440
Administrator Costs	$27,200	$28,696	$30,274
Other Personnel Costs (Prog Coord)	$90,000 $50,000	$93,000 $25,750	$96,000 $51,525
Equipment Costs			
Library/LRC Costs	$5,000	$2,000	$1,500
Facility Costs	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW COSTS	**$242,400**	**$317,446**	**$375,739**

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
New Faculty	1	4	0	1	0	1
Existing Faculty	0	0	1	4	1	5

Staff Conclusion

Harper College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as outlined in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

McHenry County College
8900 U.S. Highway 14
Crystal Lake, IL 60012
President: Dr. Clint Gabbard

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Program Purpose

The program will prepare students for employment as registered diagnostic medical sonographers in a variety of healthcare settings.

Catalog Description

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Diagnostic Medical Sonography is designed to prepare students to function as professional diagnostic medical sonographers in various healthcare settings including hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. Diagnostic medical sonographers perform sonography exams and procedures such as the evaluation of internal body organs with sonography imaging, assisting radiologists with biopsies, and providing valuable information and feedback for the radiologist's interpretation.

Curricular Information

The curriculum requires 22 credit hours of required general education coursework, 37 credit hours of career and technical education coursework, and nine credit hours in diagnostic medical sonography clinical practice. This excludes eight credit hours of general education pre-requisite coursework in biology, anatomy, and physiology. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in medical terminology, introductory sonography, patient care skills, introductory and advanced levels of abdominal sonography, cross-sectional anatomy for diagnostic imaging, introductory and advanced levels of sonographic physics and instrumentation, introductory and advanced levels of obstetrics and gynecology sonography, introductory and advanced levels of vascular sonography, sonography of superficial structures, professional issues in diagnostic medical sonography, and three levels of diagnostic medical sonography clinical practice. The curriculum was developed according to standards implemented by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) to prepare graduates for necessary credentialing as a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) or for the national certification exam in diagnostic medical sonography through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance during the clinical learning experience and the practice registration exam.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

Credit hours required to complete the program mirror the course content and contact hours in the clinical practicum required for accreditation by the CAAHEP and JRC-DMS along with credentialing through the ARDMS. The curriculum requires eight credit hours of pre-requisite coursework in biology, human anatomy, and physiology before beginning sonography coursework.

Accrediting Information

McHenry County College (the College) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The program must be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The College will apply for accreditation once a full class of students has completed. Students are eligible to sit for the Registered Radiologic Technician (RRT) credentialing exam through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists upon completion of the program. Once accredited, students may also sit for the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer exam through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

McHenry County College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes programs in this field of study. The College currently utilizes multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups in an effort to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Targeted efforts include focusing on attracting, recruiting, and retaining a diverse population of students. The College provides a multitude of services for assisting students with program completion through various student support services available on campus and virtually. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and administration through diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training for search committees, advertising to diverse audiences, reviewing existing policies and practices, and providing access to DEI support activities throughout the year. McHenry County College recently hired an associate vice president of DEI to oversee the consistent management of related programs and services to students, faculty, and administration. The College will intentionally expose students to a diverse set of faculty within the classroom and provide opportunities for students to learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds who work within the industry.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports student interest in the proposed field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), overall growth in employment of diagnostic medical sonographers is expected to increase by 10.9 percent statewide through 2032.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Northwestern Medicine	McHenry, IL
Northwestern Medicine	Huntley, IL
Mercyhealth	Crystal Lake, IL
Advocate Good Shepherd	Barrington, IL
Advocate Condell Medical Center	Libertyville, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

DMS AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	12	24	24
Part-Time Enrollments:	0	0	0
Completions:	0	12	12

Financial and Budgetary Information

Two new full-time faculty will be necessary to implement the program. Qualified faculty will hold at least a bachelor's degree in diagnostic medical sonography from an accredited program, a current RDMS credential, at least four years of work experience as a diagnostic medical sonographer, and two years teaching experience (preferred). Facilities are being renovated and equipped to provide students with a modern clinical work-based learning experience and to meet program accreditation requirements. Costs associated with implementation include equipment purchases, faculty/administration, and accreditation expenditures. The program will be supported by institutional funds along with tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	$170,000	$195,000	$195,000
Administrator Costs	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Equipment Costs	$300,000	$15,000	$15,000

Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs	$300,000	0	0
Other (Accreditation fees)	$10,000	$2,700	$2,700
TOTAL NEW COSTS	**$790,000**	**$222,700**	**$222,700**

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		**Second Year**		**Third Year**	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
New Faculty	2	0	0	2	0	1
Existing Faculty	0	0	2	0	2	2

Staff Conclusion

McHenry County College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as outlined in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

Morton College
3801 S. Central Avenue
Cicero, IL 60804
President: Dr. Keith McLaughlin

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Digital Art and Design

Program Purpose

The program will prepare students for entry-level employment in graphic design studios, advertising agencies, and marketing agencies.

Catalog Description

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Digital Art and Design prepares students for entry-level positions in the field of graphic design and visual communications. The program focuses on the conceptualization and realization of visual communications through project-based exploration of art and design, typography, image-making, and critical thinking.

Curricular Information

The curriculum requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework, 39 credit hours of career and technical education coursework, and six credit hours of related technical electives. Coursework includes instruction in drawing, 2D and 3D fundamentals, digital photography, introductory digital art, art history, introductory and advanced levels of graphic design, typography, digital illustration, print and digital production, digital media design, and a required work-based learning experience in graphic design. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance on the comprehensive capstone assignment and work-based learning experience.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

N/A

Accrediting Information

Morton College (the College) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. No additional specialty accreditation is required to offer the proposed program.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

Morton College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes programs in this field of study. The College utilizes multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups in an effort to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. As a Hispanic Serving Institution, Morton College is committed to eliminating institutional advancement gaps for low-income, first-generation Latino students. Targeted efforts include identifying financial barriers that hinder enrollment and completion and redesigning course offerings to allow for flexibility among students. Student academic support services include academic support and tutoring, success coaching, career coaching, accessibility services, veteran-focused services, and the TRIO program. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain diverse faculty, staff, and administration through diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training for search committees, advertising to diverse audiences, reviewing existing policies and practices, and providing access to DEI support activities throughout the year. The College will intentionally expose students to a diverse set of faculty within the classroom and provide opportunities for students to learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds who work within the industry.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports student interest in the proposed field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), growth in the graphic design field is expected to increase by about two percent statewide through 2032.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location

Morton West High School	Berwyn, IL
Morton East High School	Cicero, IL
Type Case Marketing Resource	Riverside, IL
Sabine Krauss Design	Berwyn, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Digital Art & Design A.A.S.	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	8	10	12
Part-Time Enrollments:	8	12	12
Completions:	0	8	10

Financial and Budgetary Information

One existing full-time faculty member and one new part-time faculty member will be necessary to support the program. Qualified faculty will hold at least a bachelor's degree in graphic design or closely related field, three years of work experience, and two years of teaching experience (preferred). The program will be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	$0	$20,702	$20,702
Administrator Costs	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs (Student	0	$4,800	$4,800
Aide)	0	0	0
Equipment Costs			
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW COSTS	**$0**	**$25,502**	**$25,502**

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
New Faculty	0	0	0	1	0	0
Existing Faculty	1	0	1	0	1	1

Staff Conclusion

Morton College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as outlined in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

Rend Lake College
468 North Ken Gray Parkway
Ina, IL 62846
President: Lori Ragland
Proposed Program Title: The Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Technology
Program Purpose

The program will prepare students for entry-level employment with businesses that sell, install, maintain, and repair equipment and technology used in agricultural services.

Catalog Description

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Agricultural Technology is designed to meet the changing needs of the agricultural community. Students will gain valuable experience with equipment that is on the cutting edge of the agriculture industry including GPS and machine guidance, variable rate technologies, drones, and autonomous solutions. Graduates of the program will be prepared for employment with equipment dealerships, agricultural service providers, seed/fertilizer companies, and many other sectors of the agricultural industry.

Curricular Information

The curriculum requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 49 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in soil science, crop science, agricultural economics, agricultural chemicals, agriculture technologies, auto applications in agriculture, agricultural technology software applications, circuit fundamentals and digital logic, field calibration of equipment, applicator equipment operations, field computer systems, agricultural retail sales, introductory digital farm management, farm data management and analytics, and a required work-based learning experience in agricultural technology. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance during the work-based learning experience.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

The proposed curriculum exceeds 60 credit hours by four credit hours to include a required work-based learning experience. This experience was highly recommended by the Program Advisory Committee and has proven valuable in student success after program completion.

Accrediting Information

Rend Lake College (the College) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. No additional program accreditation is required to offer the proposed program.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

Rend Lake College is committed to providing innovative learning opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all students. The College promotes student support programs and services through the RLC Enhancement Center and CTE Success Center. The College utilizes RL-Cares, a team of professionals trained to assist students in overcoming potential and existing barriers. Faculty are trained to monitor student progress through dedicated advising and an Early Alert system. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and administration through diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) advertising to diverse audiences, reviewing existing policies and practices, and providing access to DEI support activities throughout the year. The College will intentionally expose students to a diverse set of faculty within the classroom and provide opportunities for students to learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds who work within the industry.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports student interest in the proposed field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), growth in the employment of occupations related to agricultural technology and equipment is expected to increase by between 6.7 to 9.4 percent statewide through 2032.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Sygenta	Highland, IL
Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners – John Deere	Steeleville, IL
Reichmann Brothers – John Deere	Centralia, IL
Nutrien Southern Division	Flora, IL
Precision Planting	Tremont, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Agricultural Tech AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	7	12	15
Part-Time Enrollments:	-	-	-
Completions:	0	9	11

Financial and Budgetary Information

One existing full-time faculty member and one existing part-time faculty member will be necessary to implement the program. Qualified faculty will hold at least a master's degree in agriculture or a closely related field, two years of work experience, and one year of teaching experience (preferred). This program will be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000
Administrator Costs	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Equipment Costs	0	0	0
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW COSTS	**$8,000**	**$8,000**	**$8,000**

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
New Faculty	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing Faculty	1	1	1	1	1	1

Staff Conclusion

Rend Lake College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as outlined in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

Southwestern Illinois College
2500 Carlyle Avenue
Belleville, IL 62221
President: Nick J. Mance

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Electronics Technology

Program Purpose

The program will prepare students with training in aviation electronics technology (also known as avionics technology) to install, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair communication and navigation equipment used in private and commercial planes.

Catalog Description

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Aviation Electronics Technology prepares students to obtain industry standard training to become aviation electronics technicians. Graduates of the program will qualify for Aviation Electronics Technician (AET) and Aviation Electronics Installation Technician (AEIT) credentialing, which provides a recognized level of industry competency and capability.

Curricular Information

The curriculum includes 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 45 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. The career and technical component includes instruction in human factors in aviation, introductory alternating current (AC) maintenance practices, introductory AC electricity and electronics, math for electronics, aircraft/avionics electrical power, avionics installation/harness manufacturing, avionics installation techniques, Very high frequency (VHF) navigation and communication equipment, communication/navigation installation, aircraft transponder/automated dependent surveillance-broadcast systems, pilot static systems, and installation of global positioning systems/electronic flight information displays. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance on the capstone project during the final semester. The program was developed according to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and guidelines established by the National Center for Aircraft Technician Training (NCATT). Graduates will be prepared for optional credentialing through the NCATT.

Accrediting Information

Southwestern Illinois College (the College) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. While no formalized accreditation is required, programs must follow the standards and guidelines of the FAA and NCATT for students to qualify for credentialing exams.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

N/A

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

Southwestern Illinois College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes programs in this field of study. The College utilizes multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups in an effort to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Targeted efforts include focusing on attracting, recruiting, and retaining a diverse population of students. Student services staff regularly provide information on accessing grants and scholarships for underrepresented/underserved students. Southwestern Illinois College continues its efforts to hire and retain diverse faculty, staff, and administration through diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training for search committees, advertising to diverse audiences, reviewing existing policies and practices, and providing access to DEI support activities throughout the year. The College will intentionally expose students to a diverse set of faculty within the classroom and provide opportunities for students to learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds who work within the industry.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports student interest in the proposed field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), employment growth for avionics technology specialists is expected to increase around 3.7 percent statewide through 2032 and approximately 4.2 percent regionally through 2033.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employer	Location
West Star Aviation	Bethalto, IL
Gulfstream Aviation (General Dynamics)	Cahokia, IL
Aviation Materials & Tech Support (AVMATS)	Chesterfield, MO
Duncan Aviation	Chesterfield, MO

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Aviation Electronics Tech AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	10	13	16
Part-Time Enrollments:	-	-	-
Completions:	-	5	10

Financial and Budgetary Information

The program will require one new full-time faculty member and an additional part-time faculty member to support the program. Qualified faculty will hold at least an associate degree in aviation electronics/avionics technology, a current AET/AEIT certification or a Federal Communications Commission General Radio Operators license, at least two years of work experience, and some teaching experience (preferred). The program will be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	$75,000	$117,000	$122,850
Administrator Costs	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Equipment Costs	$55,000	$15,000	$15,000
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW COSTS	**$130,000**	**$132,000**	**$137,850**

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
New Faculty	0	0	0	1	0	0
Existing Faculty	1	0	1	0	1	1

Staff Conclusion

Southwestern Illinois College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as outlined in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.