**Sauk Valley Community College**

**October 23, 2017**

**Action Item 4.4**

**Topic: New Degree Offering – Truck Driving Entrepreneurship Certificate**

**Strategic Direction: Goal 1, Objective 2 – Be responsive to community needs by offering new and appropriate academic programs and classes**

**Presented By: Dr. David Hellmich, Dr. Jon Mandrell, and Dr. Steve Nunez**

**Presentation:**

In 2017, Sauk Valley Community College established a contractual relationship with 160 Driving Academy to train Sauk students for their driving permit and their Class A (CDL) driving exam. This relationship has been mutually beneficial with the College already having eleven students enter the program since the first class August 21, 2017. The program is four weeks long and results in students earning ten credit hours in a Truck Driving certificate. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates there will continue to be a demand for heavy and tractor trailer drivers, especially during a vibrant economy. The hourly pay is over $20 per hour.

Internal discussions at SVCC have concluded that there is a need to develop a new eighteen-credit-hour Truck Driving Entrepreneurship certificate. This new certificate will allow students who completed the ten-credit Truck Driving certificate to stack additional coursework in entrepreneurship principles, computer accounting, business, personal selling, marketing, and advertising to earn the new certificate and prepare them to run their own truck driving business.

According to the Owner-Operator Independent Driver Association (OOIDA), there are approximately 350,000 owner-operators making this one of the largest groups of business owners in the United States. The College will provide much needed business/entrepreneurship education to this expanding group of entrepreneurs. Additionally, the College provides a Small Business Development Center that will assist in these efforts. Specifically, the staff in the SBDC teach the new Entrepreneurship Principles course to assist those with small business aspirations; students receive free advisement about starting their own business through the SBDC.

The College will continue to contract with 160 Driving Academy to prepare students for their driving permit and for their Class A (CDL) driving exam. Sauk faculty will teach the remaining coursework to complete the eighteen-credit-hour certificate.

**Recommendation:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the proposed Truck Driving Entrepreneurship Certificate, which will begin with ICCB approval in the FY 2019 academic year.