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MEDIA RELEASE

Algoma District School Board

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Algoma District School Board excited for new program to take off this September!

The Algoma District School Board (ADSB) is excited to announce a new and innovative program available for Grade 11 and 12 students in September 2018. The **Aviation and Aerospace Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program** will allow students to focus their high school learning on the Aviation and Aerospace sector while meeting the requirements for secondary graduation. They will learn sector specific skills and knowledge in a hands-on, career related learning environment.

Predictions about future needs in the aerospace and aviation industry help to illustrate the need for this kind of innovative program. By 2036, Boeing – currently the world's largest aerospace company – predicts that approximately 2 million jobs will be needed in this particular sector, including new commercial airline pilots, maintenance technicians and cabin crew. The Air Transport Association of Canada estimates a shortage of approximately 6000 pilots over the next 20 years, due to lower wages for new pilots and high training costs, coupled with the rapid expansion of the industry. The global aviation sector expects to see substantial growth for at least the next 20 years, which translates into opportunities for our students.

ADSB educator Joe Luxton introduced the idea of the Aviation and Aerospace SHSM Program and has worked closely with Jennifer MacIntosh, SHSM Lead Teacher and ADSB System Administrator Michael McCabe. Joe brings his expertise and passion to his role as program lead teacher having begun his career as an Aircraft Structures Technician at Bombardier Aerospace where he manufactured and built aircraft.

ADSB recognized that, in addition to having key staff members in place, to help shape an exceptional program for our board we needed to reach out to the wealth of community partners in the Algoma District. The first call was to the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Center (CBHC). Initial conversations with their President Kim Park and Executive Director Mike Delfre led to contacts with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Sault Search and Rescue, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, JD Aero Maintenance, Springer Aerospace, SSM Airport Development Corporation and Humphrey Aircraft Services. The significant need for young people to be trained in the aviation sector was reinforced by all of these organizations, who have offered their support to the program in a variety of ways.

This Grade 11 and Grade 12 four-credit program includes the *Transportation Technology: Light Aircraft Course*, which has three main areas of study: pilot/flight services, mechanics and structures. Students will earn industry recognized certifications and training. They will earn cooperative education credits as they engage in placements with partners within the industry including: aircraft maintenance and repair, avionics, pilot training, engineering, aerospace administration and aircraft mechanics.

Light aircraft transportation technology classes will be held at the CHBC in their historic aircraft hangar. The hangar, built in 1924, is one of the oldest in Canada and will provide an engaging atmosphere for students for the duration of the program.

As well, we have submitted an application for a dual credit opportunity with Sault College. Students will have access to Sault College facilities and equipment, college teacher instruction and earn both a high school and college credit.

The Algoma District School Board, committed to preparing our students for the future, is excited about the opportunities this program presents. This will be an important opportunity for interested students to gain skills, consider career options, enjoy reach ahead experiences and make connections within the aviation and aerospace industries.

To find out more about the Aviation and Aerospace SHSM Program, students or their parents are encouraged to speak to Student Services in their secondary schools.

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