

Colorado Northwestern Community College-Aviation Technology

To the Review Committee and Authorizing Board,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Garfield County School of Innovation (GCSI). Integrating aeronautical science into GCSI's core curriculum is a forward-thinking initiative that directly addresses the workforce demands of Western Colorado and the nation.

Having previously served as the Director of Aeronautics for a specialized secondary aviation charter school, I know firsthand what it takes to embed aerospace education into a public school framework. From establishing a robust safety culture to structuring coursework toward FAA ground certifications, technical rigor is paramount. To support GCSI's success, I gladly offer my personal mentorship, curriculum guidance, and technical advisory support to school leadership.

Furthermore, as the Director of Aviation Technology at Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC), I offer our strongest institutional recommendation. At CNCC, we train career-ready aviators through comprehensive FAA Part 141 flight training and applied degree pathways. Situated right here on the Western Slope, CNCC is ideally positioned to provide a seamless postsecondary pipeline for GCSI graduates, bridging secondary education directly to collegiate flight training and aerospace careers.

GCSI has the vision to inspire and equip Colorado's next generation of aviators and technical leaders. I urge your full approval of their charter application and look forward to collaborating with their founding team.

Sincerely,

Nathan Hardin, M.Ed.

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