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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2013

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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN AUSTIN POLYTECHNICAL
ACADEMY**

City Council today approved an amendment to the City of Chicago's budget that will allow the City to reinvest \$1.25 million in returned TIF funds into Austin Polytechnical Academy.

The TIF funds, which were returned to the City by United Airlines last November, will be used to create additional advanced manufacturing training programs at the school. Mayor Emanuel has committed to use returned TIF funds to support investment in the city's key priorities and neighborhoods

"I'm proud to reinvest these recovered TIF funds into a neighborhood program that will directly impact the lives of Chicago's families and strengthen our city's economy for the future., said Mayor Emanuel. "This investment will allow thousands of Chicago's children to get high-paying jobs in tomorrow's workforce and strengthen the economy of our City."

Once the budget amendment is approved by the City Council, the City can formally award the funding, which will be used to finance the following five programs:

- o **The Austin Manufacturing Innovation Park** – The goal of this program is to begin the exploratory phase of building a manufacturing campus in Austin that would help local manufacturers access innovation and new technologies as well as skilled workforce.
- o **The Austin Polytech Career program** – This program has an annual mission of recruiting partner companies to provide exposure to manufacturing careers through internships and other programming.

o **The Austin Manufacturing Training Program** – This is a machining training and credentialing program for adults, that meets on evenings, weekends, and in the summer. 45 to 50 students will be in the program.

o **Elementary school outreach** – This funding will include a budget for outreach to elementary schools to get students interested in pursuing STEM education, manufacturing training, engineering and technology.

o **The ACT bridge program** – The ACT bridge program prepares African-American males, ages 18 and up, with the math and English skills needed for community colleges or the Austin Manufacturing Training Program (or similar training and vocational programs).

Founded in 2007 by the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, Austin Polytechnical Academy is a college and career prep high school with a focus on manufacturing and engineering. Students learn about careers in all aspects of the industry, from skilled production and engineering to management and company ownership -- plus related sectors like intellectual property law. More than 60 industry partners work in conjunction with the Academy to provide students with mentoring, field trips, work experience, and other enrichment opportunities.

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