



Hire. Invest. Reach. Empower.

June 2020 E-NEWSLETTER

UNITEHERE! Local 1, the UNITEHERE! Chicago Hospitality Institute, Chicago Federation of Labor Workforce and Community Initiative (CFLWACI) and HIRE360 have been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Apprenticeship Expansion Program. HIRE360 will lead a partnership that is focused on training individuals for high-wage careers in the hospitality industry. HIRE360 will help recruit candidates for a pre-apprenticeship program for Line Cooks, preparing for apprentice positions with over 40 hotels, restaurants and other employers in the greater Chicago area. This will provide excellent opportunities for jobseekers HIRE360 is working with that do not meet the requirements for construction work or are interested in other opportunities. HIRE360 is proud of this important partnership and to expand our work to new sectors, continuing our work building high wage union opportunities for all Chicagoans.

HIRE360 continues to pursue access to a vast network of business advisors, community banks, credit unions, brokers, CDFIs, local governments and other organizations that are committed to strengthening minority businesses. We are proud to add to our list of funders that already include Progressive Bank, CIBC, CNI, CRF-USA, and LISC. The Illinois State Treasurer's Office just signed a MOU with Credit Union 1 to make available \$25 million to small contractors. HIRE360 is submitting businesses to participate in a pilot loan program with Credit Union 1 and Wintrust Bank. HIRE360 offers unparalleled access to capital to minority businesses and is securing a variety of flexible financing packages. We offer collaborative programs for construction businesses in economically challenged communities, and non-conventional loans among a portfolio of flexible debt and equity products that can support startup and growth stage businesses who may not qualify for traditional financing.



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

Through HIRE360's partnership with the CTA, Walsh-Flour, and RailWorks on the Red and Purple Line Modernization Project (RPM), HIRE360 helped place two of their returning tradespersons in laborer positions with RailWorks, a subcontractor on the RPM project. Kelvin Jackson and Lashundria Dewberry were connected to HIRE360 through their local union to help get connected to job opportunities. While working one-on-one with their individual case managers, both took advantage of utilizing HIRE360's Barrier Reduction Fund to get caught up on paying their union back dues, a hardship for both while being unemployed. Check out the [ABC 7 story](#) below for a further look into this partnership and its positive impact.

Candidates interested in enrolling in our programming should complete an online assessment form [here](#). A HIRE360 representative will reach out to you with next steps.



HIRE360, CTA modernization project connect new and...

CHICAGO (WLS) -- If you look around the city, you'll see essential businesses everywhere. That includes construction projects that are underway. One of the

biggest is the Red and Purple Modernization project. It's the largest investment in CTA...

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RIVERSIDE



INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Partner Spotlight

[Riverside Investment & Development](#) is a Chicago based, vertically integrated real estate company founded in 2010 by John O'Donnell, a 40-year industry veteran. Since launching its first development, the award-winning [150 North Riverside Plaza](#), Riverside has become one of the most active developers in the Midwest, with nearly 4.5 million rentable square feet of office, residential and retail delivered or under construction. Riverside has generously supported our efforts to connect the community to these opportunities.



Small Business Spotlight

[Craft Mechanical, LLC](#) is a minority-owned mechanical construction business that is MBE, CMS- BEP, and DBE certified. They have over 30 years of experience delivering superior service and craftsmanship in Chicago.

Manny Reynoso serves as the co-owner and founder of Craft Mechanical, LLC, and is a living example of the ultimate American dream. Born in Mexico, Manny came to Illinois at the ripe age of five in pursuit of a better life. As a first-generation immigrant, he was always passionate about working with his hands and construction. After high school, Manny joined Local 597 Pipefitter's Union, starting as an apprentice and working his way up to foreman roles for union companies.

Eager to understand the business aspect of construction, Manny pursued a degree while working full time, graduating from Roosevelt University with a Bachelor's in Business. After obtaining his degree and working 10 years as a Pipefitter, Manny transitioned to Project Manager roles managing large-scale projects for various public and private clients throughout Chicago.

After years of construction experience, Manny identified the need for a minority-owned mechanical construction business that delivers high quality service and craftsmanship. As a Chicago resident, Manny understands and values the critical role construction has in contributing to the economic and aesthetic development of our city. His high touch work ethic (both on and off the field) ensures every detail of a project is completed to perfection.

Anthony “Tony V” Vozenilek also serves as the co-owner and founder of Craft Mechanical, LLC and is one of the smartest and hardest working “Craftsman” in Local 597. Coming from a family of union pipefitters, Tony set himself apart from many in the trade by not only being proficient in mechanical construction installs but also in service. Tony has mastered install, start-up, testing and commissioning throughout his career.

Craft Mechanical, LLC has completed work at Chicago Public Library, Northwestern University, Water Reclamation District, and Northrop Grumman.

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