



Hire. Invest. Reach. Empower.

APRIL 2021 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

Apprenticeship Programs Announce Openings



[Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters'](#) Apprentice Program has opened its application period from April 26 through May 27, 2021 for General Construction. For those individuals interested in applying, please contact your case manager today or email us at info@HIRE360Chicago.com. If you have not already signed up for HIRE360, enroll now at www.hire360chicago/assessment.

Stay tuned for workshop offerings that will review the application process in more detail.



[IBEW Local 9's](#) Outdoor Electrical Worker / Line Maintainers Apprenticeship Program will be accepting applications in May 2021. Applications will be accepted by appointment only starting May 17 – 21 and May 24 – 28. All applicants must have a CDL-A driver's license or CDL-A permit with medical card. For those individuals interested in applying, please contact your case manager today or email us at info@HIRE360Chicago.com. If you have not already signed up for HIRE360, enroll now at www.hire360chicago/assessment.

The Hospitality Industry is Ready to Make a Come Back and HIRE360 is Here to Help

HIRE360 is proud to partner with UNITE HERE Chicago Hospitality Institute (UHCHI) for the first-ever UHCHI Culinary Apprenticeship Class in preparation of the return of hospitality. The eight-week program launched earlier this week and serves a diverse group of students, many of whom had been laid off from their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is taking place at McCormick Place and will prepare students with skills needed for the return of

the hospitality industry.

Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Apprenticeship Illinois expansion and workforce alignment initiatives, the UHCHI Culinary Apprenticeship program will serve as a key pipeline to connect community members with career opportunities available at McCormick Place and throughout the Chicago-area hospitality industry

Initiatives like this are critical to the growth and success of Chicago's hospitality industry and HIRE360 is proud to be part of this effort to support UHCHI and to expand the model of apprenticeships to new industries!

[Read the Chicago Sun-Times article here.](#)

HIRE360 Training Facility is Underway

HIRE360 is working on building our permanent home in the heart of Bronzeville in Chicago. We'd like to thank our contractor partners who have generously donated in-kind supplies and labor to help with the buildout of the facility:



- [Saint-Gobain North America Manufacturing](#) supplied thousands of square feet of drywall, insulation and ceiling tile
- [KR Miller](#) has provided thousands of square footage of floor tiles, wall tiles and trim
- [Beverly Asphalt](#) generously provided a forklift and labor to support the receipt of deliveries
- [S Mechanical](#) provided a HVAC system capable of heating and cooling the entire facility

These donations and labor support have been critical in helping us establish our permanent home and supporting our mission creating a pipeline to careers in the trades!

Candidate Spotlight

Rodrigo Ontiveros is a great example of what opportunity can mean in the construction trades. While he was previously working as a shipping and receiving manager, Rodrigo was looking for the next step. HIRE360's WIOA info session helped Rodrigo learn about gaining industry recognized skills. He applied his first-hand knowledge to obtaining a CDL-A through our partner agency, [CFL Workforce Community Initiative](#). From there, possibilities unfolded before

him. After studying up for the aptitude test, Rodrigo passed and was accepted into the [Sheet Metal Workers'](#) and the [Bricklayers' Apprenticeship](#) programs, and earned an opportunity to earn a Future Energy Jobs Act Certification as a solar installer with [IBEW](#). Rodrigo attested, "HIRE360 is a great help to find and reach opportunities to better yourself."



HIRE360 Virtual Job Club

Have you heard the news? HIRE360's Virtual Job Club will be offered every 3rd Friday of the Month to provide various employment updates for companies like [F.H. Pashen](#), [Allstate Concrete Cutting](#), [City of Chicago](#), [CTA](#) and many more.

To learn more about the job opportunities offered by HIRE360, register to attend Job Club every 3rd Friday at 11 a.m. [Click here](#) to register.

Upskilling: HIRE360 Helps Candidates Obtain In-Demand Credentials

HIRE360 helps candidates prepare for long-lasting careers in the trades. As part of that effort, we work with candidates to help them obtain high-demand credentials and compete for opportunities by bringing forth additional value on construction job sites. Class-A Commercial Drivers Licenses, AWS Welding Training, and HVAC training are a few examples of credentials that can help prepare candidates for long-lasting careers and provide them with hands-on skills they need to prepare for apprenticeships. HIRE360 will be hosting sessions to prep candidates for WIOA services, which can provide grants for many high-demand training programs.

To learn more about WIOA please register to attend a 11 a.m. info session or a 3 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. To register [click here](#).

Business Development

Access to Capital

Exciting news! HIRE360 is proud to announce that we have a new lending

partner for our access to capital - Progressive Bank's Community Stewardship Loan Program. In case you didn't know, HIRE360 assists small business owners who may have credit challenges, collateral gaps, or limited experience with financial management so that they are ready to apply for, secure and manage the capital needed to grow their business. Teaming up with Progressive allows us to offer:

Loan Benefits:

- Low 2% APR for life of loan
- Amount ranging from \$5,000 - \$50,000
- Terms of 2, 3 or 5 year (based on loan amount)
- No prepayment penalty
- Minimal documentation required

Loan Qualifications:

- Small Business or Nonprofit
- Annual sales or revenue under \$1 million
- Business is located in low to moderate income census tract
- 2 years of financials

Minority Business Certification

The process of obtaining Minority Business Certification can be confusing to new business owners. With the help of consultant Laverne Hall, owner of [CANDO Corporation](#), HIRE360 is proud to offer assistance to businesses as they navigate this process.

Most construction projects require contractors to be certified as Minority/Women/Disadvantage/Veteran Business Enterprises and this is a necessary process in order to be recognized and count towards the achievement of diversity goals.

In anticipation of \$100 billion in Mega Projects over the next 10-15 years, scaling up businesses to provide minority participation on the projects is very significant towards creating unprecedented opportunities. Please contact Antoinette Mitchell at AMitchell@HIRE360Chicago.com for more information.

Upcoming Training in Contract Compliance

Join us on April 29 at 4 p.m. for a virtual session and learn about the intricacies of contract compliance. The session will cover topics such as:

- Attorney review before signing a contract
- Managing contract disputes
- Understanding your fiduciary responsibility
- Identifying ways to improve efficiency and implement effective cost controls to help you meet project goals, while reducing risks and cost.

To register, please [click here](#).

Introducing The Next Chicago Builders

The Next Chicago Builders, HIRE360's Youth Engagement Program, held its first meeting on March 17th to develop concepts that will bring opportunities in the trades to young people across Chicago.

Special thanks to [Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson](#), Rev. Janice Wilson, [Rainbow Push](#), HIRE360 Board Members Brian Ortiz and Rashied Davis, and our industry partners from [McCormick Place](#), [Otis](#), [Power](#), [W.E. O'Neil](#), [CTUF](#), [IBEW134](#), [Unite Here](#), [Dunbar](#), [Operating Engineers 150](#), and many other leaders who joined us on March 17th on our youth engagement committee to discuss strengthening curriculum and supporting students interested in careers in construction, manufacturing and hospitality.

HIRE360 is excited to announce that it will sponsor 31 CPS students with its partners for internship opportunities this summer. The internship opportunities will provide students with mentorship, real-work knowledge, and skill enhancement from those working in the field that students will intern.

HIRE360 and its partners continue to look at new ways to engage young people to consider the trades as an option during and after high school.



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

HIRE360 Wants to Level the Playing Field in the Construction Industry |

Chicago Defender, Danielle Sanders, March 23

It has been predicted that the construction industry has the potential to quickly jump-start the economy post-COVID and



HIRE360 is deliberately working to invest in minority, Black, and women-owned companies to support the Chicago workforce.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Partner Spotlight

The [Chicago Teacher's Union \(CTU\) Foundation](#) and HIRE360 Candidate Tutor Support Program for Trade Apprentices provides HIRE360 trade candidates 1:1 and small group tutoring sessions with highly qualified content specialists to ensure trade candidates pass the Access United Apprenticeship Pre-Test.

HIRE360 is expanding employment and advancement opportunities in Illinois and the Chicagoland area by providing on-going support for community residents in the hospitality, manufacturing, and construction industries by providing recruiting, training, and placement assistance. Upgrading the skills of the currently employed by providing support services to the trades for youth and gainful employment for underrepresented populations is the first step in an important chain of events that ultimately strengthens communities.

The CTU Foundation is proud to support HIRE360 by providing trade candidates with individualized tutoring from highly-qualified CPS instructors who are technically, pedagogically, and culturally

PRINCETON
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT & MATERIAL TESTING

Small Business Spotlight

Based in Chicago, [Princeton Technical Services Inc.](#) is an African American owned and City of Chicago certified MBE/DBE/ACDBE engineering consulting firm specializing in program management, construction management, construction inspection and material testing. Led by President Timothy Hughes, Princeton recently acquired GSG Material Testing Inc., a well-regarded 15-year old Hispanic owned MBE/DBE construction inspection and material testing firm, expanding Princeton's capabilities to include material testing for the most complex assignments.

They specialize in testing and analysis of the properties and performance behavior of soils and mechanical, hydraulic, and physical testing of all forms of materials used in the construction. Their team of engineers and technicians are certified, credentialed and experienced with hundreds of projects, including commercial developments, bridges, roadways, residential developments, and railroad facilities. Princeton's construction inspections and material testing team senior

competent. Along with the HIRE360 trade apprentice support program, the tutors will work with the candidates for them to pass an aptitude test in order to be considered for apprenticeship programs through the Access United Apprenticeship Pre-Test. HIRE360 and the Chicago Teachers Union Foundation seek Chicago Public School teachers who are highly qualified tutors to prepare pre-apprenticeship candidates for the Access United Apprenticeship Pre-Test. Tutors will train candidates in mathematics and reading comprehension in areas including, but not limited to, basic mathematical operations, reading comprehension, spatial visualization, numerical reasoning and computation, and mechanical reasoning.

consultants are licensed, professional engineers and are well established in the local construction industry and engineering community, having many years of experience in the materials engineering and testing profession. Princeton maintains a fully equipped, state-of-art geotechnical and construction material testing laboratory and is able to perform all laboratory testing services in accordance with referenced construction industry standards including ASTM, AASHTO, IDOT, INDOT, AMRL, CCRL and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for soil, concrete, masonry, asphalt, and other construction materials.

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