



Industry Led. Community Focused.

APRIL 2022 E-NEWSLETTER

Training Center Taking Shape

HIRE360 Receives \$3 Million Investment for South Side Training Center



We are very excited to announce a major investment on our new home from the state and federal government. We were joined by [Governor J.B. Pritzker](#), [Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi](#), [Chicago Federation of Labor](#) President Bob Reiter, our Board Chair [Don Biernacki](#) as well as leaders from government, labor and business across Chicago. The investment will help us build out permanent facilities to host our pre-apprenticeship program, our small business incubator, and a full culinary and hospitality apprentice training center. “HIRE360 will serve as a multifaceted space for workforce development throughout the Chicago area,” said Governor Pritzker at the event.

“This business development center... will provide people with middle-class, life-sustaining job skills,” said Congressman Krishnamoorthi. The facility will include a parent’s center and playroom for working parents, a solar training

center, full service kitchens for culinary apprenticeship training with [UNITEHERE Local 1](#), and more. We thank Governor Pritzker, Congressman Krishnamoorthi and all our partners in business, government and labor for their support in making this historic investment! And a big thank you to Adrian Mobley - Owner/President at [Air & Wellness Safety Training Company](#) and David Castrejon - [IBEW Local 134](#) Apprentice who talked about the supports HIRE360 has given them to help them achieve their potential.

Workforce Development

HIRE360, Project H.O.O.D. Candidates Tour Painters D.C. 14 Training Center

The [Painters District Council 14](#) apprenticeship hosted a tour of their state-of-the-art training facilities for candidates from HIRE360 and [Project H.O.O.D.](#) this month. The HIRE360 candidates got a chance to see for themselves what training is like for workers in the Finishing Trades, including Commercial and Industrial Painters, Drywall Finishers and Glaziers. Candidates learned about the history of the Finishing Trades, opportunities for growth and leadership within a union, and what it takes to work and succeed as an apprentice in this exciting trade. Thanks to our partners with the Painters District Council 14 for their support in bringing this opportunity to our candidates!



Candidate Spotlight



David Castrejon always has his mind on the construction industry. “I have one brother who is an electrician. Another brother is in the Laborers Union. Another brother was in the Carpenters Union.” David, a veteran, was never afraid of hard work. After 3 years studying Architecture at UIUC, David took jobs as a bartender, as a 3D printer, in manufacturing

and as a manager. But when he joined HIRE360 as a candidate, he set his sights on an opportunity to become an electrician apprentice with [IBEW Local 134](#). HIRE360 helped David with resume courses, test prep and information about IBEW’s Jump Start test prep program. He said he would “absolutely” recommend HIRE360 to a family or friend. “HIRE360 kept me updated on different opportunities.” David is in his first month as a new apprentice and is looking forward to a great career.

Business Development

Power Lunch: Women-Run MEP Union Contractors

HIRE360 hosted a bi-monthly networking luncheon at the Oak Brook Gibsons Restaurant - an enjoyable opportunity for women Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing professionals, with great turnout! Thank you to Julia Stasch for all your support of our programs.



Diversity Supply Chain Program

HIRE360 is partnered with the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council as its primary resource for the outreach, recruitment, and certification of minority-owned material suppliers and professional services business enterprises (MBEs). ChicagoMSDC is a primary resource of certified MBE businesses to HIRE360 through its enterprise database. Our mission is to create mutually beneficial business opportunities between major buying organizations and diverse owned businesses, according to these principles:

Advocacy: We believe supplier diversity brings inclusion, quality, and overall competitive value. Creating and supporting a diverse supplier base that represents the communities we serve not only makes good business sense for our partners, but it also encourages new business development.

Development: We are dedicated to developing and providing capacity building for diversity suppliers. By developing a diverse pipeline of suppliers, we create competition for the products and services traditionally offered by legacy suppliers. We believe we can help change paradigms and generate sustainable partnerships with Primary/Tier 1 Suppliers.

Reporting: We will provide reporting specific to our supplier diversity program's progress to all stakeholders. The success of the program will be measured by the creation and utilization of existing businesses and the results we obtain through the dollars spent with diverse suppliers.

Section 3 Certifications

Business Development has added Section 3 Business Concern Certification a Re-certification program, to the already provided W/MBE, DBE, and BEP Certification assistance. Please contact Dave Thomas at dthomas@hire360chicago.com or Deborah Whitaker at dwhitaker@hire360chicago.com for further information.

Save the Date

Our partner, the ChicagoMSDC, is celebrating 55 years of the Chicago Business Opportunity Fair! See why so many MBEs have grown their

businesses through CBOF over the years. Create Your Business Future at CBOF55! Join us as we kick off CBOF55, on May 10, 2022. This year, the emcee for the breakfast is NBC5 Co-Anchor and Emmy Award Winner Michelle Relford. Opening Remarks will come from Mark Crawford, BP's US General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Legal People and Culture, Global Diversity and Inclusion. You don't want to miss any part of this historic Business Opportunity Fair or the days' events – educational workshops, networking, business trade fair and a celebration reception.

[Click here to register.](#)

Youth Engagement

Preparing Chicagoland's Next Workforce: Hospitality and Culinary Arts Webinar

In our second, “[Career in the Trades Orientation: Hospitality and Culinary Arts](#)” on Thursday, May 12, 2022 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm., panelists will discuss the joys and challenges of the hospitality industry from the perspectives of chefs who educate the next generation!

Featured Panelists:

- Luis Bermudez, Director of Programs and Services, UNITE HERE Chicago Hospitality Institute
- Chef Keith Potter, UHCHI instructor
- *More to be announced!*

Educators who register for the Professional Development Ticket for the webinar can earn 2 ISBE professional development credits with attendance and successful completion of a follow-up reflection assignment from the CTUF Quest Center for Professional Learning. Please email michaelmoriarty@ctuf.org with any questions.

To register, click [Event Evite](#).



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

HIRE360 Voices

"I want to be the biggest, baddest carpenter turned GC turned developer in the nation": **Melvin Henley, Principal at PAC Leaders**, shares how HIRE360 has helped him build and scale his union carpentry business on track to achieving his goals.



Partner Spotlight

This month we want to spotlight [Clark Construction](#) a leader in the industry and a major supporter of HIRE360's work. This week, Clark hosted a tour of their Metropolitan Apartments project. The site is for a residential project that demonstrated a wide array of trade opportunities to HIRE360 candidates. Clark Construction Group is one of the most experienced building and civil construction firms in the U.S. By bringing this opportunity to HIRE360 candidates, Clark is sharing critical experience with our candidates that will help give them a leg up as they start their careers.



Small Business Spotlight

General Building Supply (GBS) was founded in 2012 by its founder, Lee Serritella, and is a full-service distributor and installer of construction materials, including drywall, steel studs, insulation, acoustical materials, beads and trims, and exterior finishes. The company also self-performs general carpentry services.

With a 30,000 square-foot facility in Mokena, IL and direct purchasing relationships with the industry's leading manufacturers, GBS established a reputation as a go to partner on some of Chicago's largest construction projects. Among its key supply partners are nationally known



companies such as USG, Johns Manville, and ClarkDietrich Building Systems.

GBS is a certified MBE, both locally and nationally, with NAICS Codes for numerous construction disciplines. GBS has proudly manned job sites at several sizable, complicated, and time sensitive projects, including O'Hare International Airport, Wrigley Field, Guaranteed Rate Field, Block 37, the Chicago Blackhawks Training facility, and the University of Chicago.

Seeking to further differentiate its offering, GBS was certified in interior construction and carpentry services in 2015. All of their resources and capabilities made GBS an excellent candidate for the HIRE360 Business Development team which quickly introduced Serritella and his team to several of its developer and GC partners. As a result, GBS is exploring opportunities with companies such as Power Construction and JDL Development who are eager to build upon their relationship.

With a leadership group and team possessing decades of experience in the Chicago construction market, GBS looks forward to servicing Chicago projects for years to come.

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