



Industry Led. Community Focused.

JUNE 2022 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

Candidate Spotlight: Aisha Brundidge



Like many HIRE360 candidates, Aisha Brundidge's path to the trades was a winding one. "My previous jobs were mundane and monotonous," she said regarding positions as a Pharmacy Tech and an Administrative Assistant. A few years as a stay at home mom for her daughter and son made her crave something different. "I decided to enter a field that would give me variety in my career." Aisha joined the HIRE360 / [Project H.O.O.D. Illinois Works program](#), part of an intensive cohort of more than two dozen students. Aisha went on job site tours and apprenticeship tours which, as she puts it, "allows you to visualize yourself in your future career." Working with HIRE360, Aisha was able to get a letter of acceptance into two trades – the [Laborers](#) and the [Concrete Form Carpenters](#). She'll be taking her first steps as a Carpenter very soon. Congrats Aisha on your new career!

Candidate Spotlight: Antonio Saunders

Antonio Saunders is the picture of resilience. From an upbringing in Cabrini Green to teen parenthood to a felony conviction at a young age, it felt like the deck was stacked against him. But it taught him to be a leader. With a working mom and a father who traveled for military service, "being the oldest I was responsible for taking care of everything." After serving his time, at 42 Antonio turned his life around, but he faced a tough job market for ex-offenders. With 5 kids, he had to find a family-sustaining income, "I googled good paying jobs for ex-offenders and the trades came up and once I learned how much you could possibly earn, I was on board." It was a referral from a [Chicago Housing Authority](#) case manager who connected Antonio to HIRE360. "I've only been working with my case manager for a month and I have gained so much information and support on how to join the trades." Today, Antonio has been accepted into and is waiting



on a class start date for [the Carpenters Union](#), and has more tests for other trades coming. While the world closed doors around him, opportunities in the trades opened new ones. We're proud of Antonio's success and can't wait to see what the future holds for him.

Veteran Finds Calling as Carpenter

Steven Baker is an Army Veteran who served in Falluja, Iraq and Egypt. Even after being injured in the line of duty, he continued to serve – but now helping with construction projects on his assignments. He enjoyed the work and knew it was the career for him, but he didn't know where to start. After returning to the South Side of Chicago, Steven bounced from job to job working to take care of his 6 kids. A referral from the [Chicago Housing Authority](#) connected him to HIRE360.

Steven participated in the [Illinois Works pre-apprenticeship program](#), which allowed him to learn more about the construction industry and apply to the trades. Steven will start the [Carpenters'](#) apprenticeship in July 2022. Steven credits HIRE360 for passing the aptitude test saying his test prep classes helped him take the test with confidence.

We're proud of Steven's success and look forward to seeing how he builds his new career!

Illinois Works Graduates Celebrate First Cohort



This month 23 candidates from HIRE360 celebrated the completion of the first cohort of the intensive [Illinois Works program](#), part of [Governor Pritzker's](#) capital infrastructure plan. Through a partnership with [Project H.O.O.D.](#) who helped identify and support candidates through the program, candidates participated in a comprehensive trades education, including courses about how to succeed in the building trades, tours of active job sites, and opportunities to meet with apprenticeship training providers throughout Greater Chicago. The graduates celebrated the completion of this 12-week program with a gourmet luncheon provided by [the UNITEHERE! Chicago Hospitality Institute](#) surrounded by friends and family. Best of all, 3 candidates have already been accepted into trades including the [Laborers](#) and [Carpenters](#), and

many more are in contention for positions with the [Painters](#), [Pipefitters](#), [Tile Finishers](#) and more. Upon completion of their apprenticeship program, we will work to connect these individuals to job opportunities with our partners like [Related Midwest](#), the [Chicago Transit Authority](#) and many more.

Business Development

HIRE360's Paving a Path to the Future



Thank you for your support of HIRE360's June 22nd Diverse Contractor event! HIRE360's unique supports and working capital loans make a huge difference to small, women-and minority-owned businesses and help them scale up. A big thank you to [Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot](#) for providing the keynote address. Congratulations to our award winners:

- Ralph Affrunti, former President of the [Chicago & Cook County Building Trades Council](#), Leadership Award
- [Senate President](#) Don Harmon, Elected Official Award
- Shon Harris, Owner of [LiveWire Construction](#), Public Policy Award
- Deborah Whitaker, [HIRE360's Director of Business Development and Supply Chain](#), Construction Advocate Award

Please watch the video below featuring loan pool recipients - past and present – discussing the difference HIRE360's support has made in their businesses. We hope you're proud of the change we've already made together in the construction industry across Chicago. And none of this would be possible without you. So thank you!



Thank You!

A big thank you to all our event sponsors who made this fundraiser possible!

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Partner Spotlight

[Magellan Development Group, LLC](#) is a Chicago based real estate and property development company that plans, designs and builds communities. As real estate developers they are committed to developing premier, environmentally-sensitive urban communities, combining modern architectural design with high-quality construction. Their properties attract residents and partners that are dedicated to the high-quality, innovative product unique to the Magellan brand.

Magellan's CEO [David Carlins](#) is the driving force behind Hire360's Working Capital Program. Through mentoring numerous small businesses, David knows that access to capital – both social and working capital – are the biggest barriers many diverse contractors face. David ensured that the 2019



Small Business Spotlight

With more than 25 years of experience in the transportation industry, [GWO Trucking & Construction, Inc.](#) is a W/M/DBE Certified business that has serviced some of the largest construction companies throughout the Chicagoland area. Their safety record is superb, and their drivers are some of the most experienced and efficient around. GWO Trucking, Inc. also helps its clients to reach their supplier diversity goals by being a certified diverse owned business and employing a diverse workforce. They also pride themselves on improving the efficiencies of their clients by achieving deliveries on time and within budget. HIRE360 welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance to GWO and we are currently providing networking opportunities with our partners. Women owned businesses like

and this year's event helped address both of those issues with a goal of raising funds to collateralize loans and plenty of time for contractors to network. David, [Laura Buel](#) and the Magellan team have spent countless hours alongside HIRE360 working with financial institutions to ensure impactful low cost working capital loans are available to our contractors.

GWO have been very instrumental in providing local hiring opportunities for the community as they grow in capacity.

GWO Trucking, Inc. strives to be recognized, throughout the Chicago area's construction industry, for their relentless determination to serve the hauling needs of their customers. In pursuit of this mission, they are dedicated to achieving the highest standards of professionalism, efficiency, safety and punctuality. The ideal of providing unrivaled customer service is what drives their company and the people they employ.

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