



Industry Led. Community Focused.

DECEMBER 2022 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

HIRE360 Being Replicated Around the Country



HIRE360's unique model is starting to take off both here and across the country. Philadelphia and Buffalo have efforts underway to build on the successful strategies we have put in place particularly around contractor growth.

A big thank you to Keiana Barrett, [Sterling Bay's](#) Director of Diversity and Strategic Development, for taking the time out with the [Philadelphia Tribune](#) to discuss the great work we are doing together.

To learn more visit the [Philadelphia Tribune here](#) or the [Times Union coverage here](#).

Partnership to Connect Community to Work on Invest South/West



HIRE360 is excited to announce that we are partnering with the [World Business Chicago](#), the [Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership](#), the [CBO Collective](#), [HACIA](#), [Revolution Workshop](#), [Chicago Women and Trades](#), [St. Paul Church in God of Christ Community Development](#), and the [Chicago Department of Family and Support Services](#) to help recruit apprentices for [INVEST South/West](#).

World Business Chicago hosted a session where community developers learned about how nearly 100 organizations are coming together to create a front door to recruit community residents for their projects. Using HIRE360's database platform, information on opportunities and candidates interested in preapprenticeship training will be tracked and shared with partner organizations.

Candidates interested in working on INVEST South/West project's should sign up at <https://hire360chicago.com/investsouthwest/> to get connected with pre-apprenticeship training today.

And a big thank you to [Obama Presidential Center's](#) Tammi Davis - Manager of Business and Workforce Diversity – for talking about how these tools and the partnership model have benefited their project.

Operating Engineers Local 399 Invest in Diverse Craftworkers



The [Operating Engineers Local 399](#) has made an investment in the next generation of Building Engineers in partnership with HIRE360. Local 399 and HIRE360 have established a Barrier Reduction Fund to support diverse candidates seeking to join the Building Engineers trade. This funding will allow candidates pay for required tools, books and tuition for candidates attending classes to become building engineers.

This fund will be instrumental in helping diverse and women candidates join the Building Engineers craft. Candidates will learn a diverse array of skills, including boiler operation, electrical maintenance, HVAC operation and much more. This investment by Local 399 will support future tradesworkers from across Chicago as they seek high-skill union careers.

We look forward to building and expanding this exciting partnership with IUOE Local 399! Our candidates need your support. Put them on a path to a life-changing career by giving today. Visit hire360chicago.com/donate and note in the comment your commitment to the Local 399 program. Your gift will help expand careers for construction workers across Chicagoland.

HIRE360 Leads CTA Trades Career Fair at Malcolm X College

HIRE360 brought together leaders from the construction industry, apprenticeship programs and more at the CTA Red and Purple Modernization Project Trades Fair. The CTA and Walsh-Flour, seeking to ensure equitable employment on all of their projects, helped HIRE360 lead this great opportunity for students and the public to meet with apprenticeship leaders, employers and community programs supporting careers in the construction trades.



Illinois Works Recruiting for 2023 Cohorts Now!



HIRE360 is recruiting candidates to join our 2023 Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program! This comprehensive program includes over 150 hours of instruction,

apprenticeship tours, job site tours, and more. This program is designed to help candidates understand the construction industry and prepare for an apprenticeship helping build Chicago. Benefits for participants include high-demand certifications, test prep, application supports and a stipend for participating.

Interested in joining? Contact us at getstarted@hire360chicago.com.

Bricklayers and Allied Crafts Training Center Host Tour

HIRE360 staff and candidates joined the Bricklayers and Allied Crafts District Council for a tour of their training center this month. Candidates were provided with an overview of the masonry trades, including Bricklayers, Tile Finishers, Pointers, Cleaners and Caulkers, as well as Marble and Terrazzo Finishers. After, they were provided a chance to try out the trades themselves, learning the basics of working with Brick, Tile and Tuckpointing and the importance of these artisan crafts.

The skill, dexterity and craftsmanship that goes into the “trowel trades” were on full display. We’re grateful to the Bricklayers and Allied Crafts for supporting us and teaching us about their remarkable trades!



Candidate Spotlight

Jesus Garcia has always worked with his hands. Working in factories and as a parts runner and



manager, Jesus was responsible for helping factories and jobsites run. But he found himself drawn to becoming a [laborer](#) for a simple reason, and one obvious to anyone familiar with the work of Chicago's laborers: "I saw that they would work underground and with big machines I honestly thought that it was interesting and cool so I decided to give it a shot." He's right – it is cool!

Even cooler: Jesus is now in his third month of apprenticeship after teaming up with HIRE360.

"[HIRE360 Recruiter] Genesis helped me a tremendous amount, and through her I finally got the call from [LiUNA Local 1](#) that there was a spot open for me... if I wanted the opportunity, it was mine." HIRE360's Barrier Reduction Fund helped Jesus cover the costs of getting started, and the rest is history. Congrats to Jesus on his new career!

Business Development

Pride Pipe & Supply Makes History

HIRE360 is proud to announce that Pride Pipe & Supply marks a historical first as a black-owned heating, ventilation and air conditioning supplier company in the Midwest. Owner and President Herman Pride launched the new business in April 2022 and is proud to partner with [Trane®](#), HIRE360 and [Related Midwest](#), resulting in expanded opportunities across the Midwest. The launch of the business includes a partnership with Trane, a world leader in air conditioning systems, services, and solutions.

"Being the first Black-owned HVAC company in the Midwest is a dream come true and a long overdue milestone," said Pride.

Allies for Community Business Partnership

HIRE360 is proud to announce a new partnership with [Allies For Community Business \(A4CB\)](#) for small business loans ranging from \$2,500-\$100,000. HIRE360 will:



- Refer community business owners to A4CB for capital
- Provide contractors access to development/capacity building, technical assistance/back office support, financial literacy, project management and business branding/marketing
- Partner with A4CB to jointly market the offering to Chicagoland contractors
- Create a segregated loan loss reserve account that will be used solely for covering losses through defaults from HIRE360-referred borrowers
- Reduce the interest rate on HIRE360-referred loans

Please contact Deborah Whitaker for assistance in applying for the program at dwhitaker@hire360chicago.com.

Save the Date

On February 8, 2023, the Illinois Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center is bringing together subject matter experts to discuss the new infrastructure bill and related business opportunities. HIRE360 is partnering with the Illinois MBDA to provide information on how minority contractors can learn more about procurement opportunities for construction trade projects and diversity supply chain as it relates to the Infrastructure Bill.

[Click here to register.](#)

What's in the **NEW** Infrastructure Bill for you?

Parking is available

February 8th, 2023
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Malcolm X College
1900 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago IL, 60612

Hear from subject matter experts and learn how the **NEW** Infrastructure Bill will create opportunities for minority business owners.

WITH DISCUSSIONS AND INSIGHTS ON:



HOW TO BENEFIT

Learn about the details of the infrastructure bill and what's in it for you.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Meet with our vendor partners and determine opportunities to partner.



BUSINESS MATCHMAKING

Attend our business matchmaking sessions to get instant opportunities!



REGISTRATION

<https://tinyurl.com/ilmbdawifm>

what's in it for you?

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Stephen L. Hightower

President & CEO

Hightower EV



More Speakers
to be
added soon!

Youth Engagement

HIRE360's Board Chair visits Prosser High School

Students from the Carpentry, HVAC and Low-Voltage Electrical programs at Prosser High School got a chance to meet and speak with Don Biernacki, EVP of Construction for Related Midwest and chairman of the HIRE360 Board of Directors. He took time to talk about his beginnings in construction, his current role and projects, and what lies ahead for him and the industry. The student audience of almost 100 asked him questions about his first job and what was most important in getting started at their age.



Biernacki also took a tour of their classroom labs, met with their teachers, and donated some supplies to their programs! This visit is one in a series of

HIRE360 curated visits by industry professionals and tradespeople going through December and January 2023. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rashaan Meador at rmeador@hire360chicago.com.



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

[First Black Owned HVAC in Midwest to Launch](#) | **WGN News**, Neshima Malik, Dec. 12.

Owner and President Herman Pride announced the launch of 'Pride Pipe & Supply,' the first Black-owned heating, ventilation and air conditioning company (HVAC) in the Midwest.



“Being the first Black-owned HVAC company in the Midwest is a dream come true and a long over-due milestone,” said Pride.

[Check out the full piece here.](#)



Partner Spotlight

Greencorps Chicago is the City of Chicago's green industry job training program for individuals with barriers to employment.

Greencorps' mission is to empower residents from Chicagoland's underserved neighborhoods to create change in their lives and communities through training, service, and career opportunities in environmental fields. Greencorps succeeds through an array of public and private partnerships along with strong support from the city, county, state, and community partners. The outcome is healthier, safer, and more engaged communities and individuals who are prepared for employment through practical field experience and technical training in a variety of environmental careers. This year, Greencorps and HIRE360 formed a partnership To assist their graduates in finding employment in the construction trades.



Small Business Spotlight

Vertison Velocity, Inc. is an union, minority led commercial drywall finishing and painting solutions business of exceptional quality, formed in 2017. Vertison Velocity, has provided essential contracting services to their clientele and the owner has more than 30 years of experience which enables them to provide an array of offerings.

Their contracting services include but are not limited to:

- Drywall Finishing and Painting
- Color Consultation
- Commercial Painting
- Exterior Painting
- Interior Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Staining & Sealing
- Faux Finishing
- Wall Textures & Molding

In addition to a diverse range of premium specializations, they operate within all current safety guidelines and regulations, utilizing state-of-the-art techniques. Vertison Velocity has built their reputable company through top-notch services, client relationships, and working until they achieve maximum client satisfaction. Vertison Velocity holds certifications with the City of Chicago (MBE, DBE), BEP(CMS) and Section 3.

PAST PERFORMANCES

- Salesforce Tower
- Sterling Bay – 345 Morgan
- Vista Property – 609 W Randolph
- The Merchandise Mart

- Harvey YMCA
- St. Regis
- Deloitte

For more information, contact
Vertisonvelocity@vertisonvelocity.com or (773) 557-2566.

HIRE360

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