



Industry Led. Community Focused.

FEBRUARY 2023 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

HIRE360 Candidate, “Mayor of Woodlawn” Laborer at Obama Presidential Center

We were very proud to have our candidate Corey Rodgers and self-proclaimed “Mayor of Woodlawn” featured by the [Obama Foundation’s](#) piece on [construction workers at the OPC](#). Corey came to HIRE360 as an experienced journeyworker where we helped him obtain a CDL-A License to advance his career, and connected him to jobs with [Power Construction](#). Proud to see Corey moving forward with an excellent career!



Pilsen Resident Helps Light Up Chicago

Growing up, Martin Solorzano was always focused on advancing himself. “I would stay focused in

school” and he participated in clubs to stay out of trouble. While his family growing up lived paycheck to paycheck, he always knew he wanted “to progress in life and earn good wages... and a better lifestyle.”

After some initial training in building, trenching and demolition work, he found HIRE360 to help him find his path forward. With a sponsorship available from [Meade Electrical](#) into [LiUNA Local 225](#), he knew he found his chance. He took HIRE360 prep courses to study and prepare for construction math, and worked closely with his case manager, Jada, as he stepped into the new role. “If it wasn’t for HIRE360’s program, I don’t know if I would still be in this industry. For that I am grateful!” Today Martin works with Meade helping build the electrical infrastructure that powers Chicago.



Congrats Martin on your new career!

HIRE360 Mentees Tour Salesforce Tower

Thank you, [Specialty Construction](#) and [Walsh Construction](#), for giving our HIRE360 mentees a tour of the upcoming [Salesforce Tower](#) on Chicago’s riverfront. And a special thank you to our mentees that made it out regardless of the weather conditions! Our mentees were able to explore several floors and learn about steelwork and new construction trends . Stay tuned for next month's event and if interested in participating in our mentorship program, please reach out to training@hire360chicago.com.



Pipefitter Apprentice Forging His Own Future

When he came to HIRE360, Nihiem Davis had already seen firsthand the benefits of a career in the union construction trades. "I have an uncle who is an Electrician with



the City.... another who is a Journeyman Roofer, and a friend that's a Journeyman Plumber. Working with them caused me to become interested in construction." That interest led him to Daley College where a Welding Certificate advanced his career. But after a few jobs in manufacturing, he knew he wanted to take the next step.

The Pipefitters Local 597 was the perfect fit for an aspiring tradesworker with experience welding, and Nihiem took it head on. After some career guidance from his case manager, Genesis and participation in the HIRE360 Test Prep program, in no time he was accepted into Local 597's Hybrid program, where his

welding skills would be ramped up quickly through intensive full-time training. A weekly Stipend from HIRE360 helped ensure he could take on that training without worrying about money. Today, he is a 1st year Pipefitter apprentice, proudly working at Advance Mechanical Systems Inc.

Congrats to Nihiem for his success joining the Pipefitters Local 597 and achieving his goals!

Apprenticeship Program Openings

HIRE360 is excited to announce our trade partners: IBEW Local 134, Pipefitters Local 597, and Ironworks Local 63 are accepting applications for the apprenticeship program.

- **Electricians – IBEW Local 134:** The deadline for the Spring class for the Electricians is **March 22nd**, so make a plan to apply now! There are only three application dates remaining. Electricians bring power to our lives, so reach out to your recruiter now to learn more.
- **Pipefitters:** The next application date for our welders in Local 597 is **March 1st**! If you're interested in a high-tech career welding in a wide array of environments, from nuclear power plants to hospitals. Your recruiter can help you make a reservation to apply.
- **Ironworkers Local 63: open year round!** Architectural and Ornamental Ironworkers build steel structures for windows, stairwells, door frames, and other critical infrastructure inside buildings. [Click here](#) to learn more about this amazing trade. For more information reach out to your recruiter.

For those individuals interested in applying and a letter of recommendation, please contact your HIRE360 Recruiter today or email us at info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

Business Development

Trinidad Construction Mentors Five MBE Contractors

HIRE360 would like to celebrate our Board Member and [Trinidad Construction](#) President Brian Ortiz for mentoring five diverse contractors through our Business Development program. These MBE contractors received support from HIRE360 and Ortiz as they seek to scale their businesses, take on larger projects and expand their impact. Participants included Adrian Mobley, President of [Air & Wellness Safety Training Company](#), Ulysses Ruff Jr, President of [Ruff Framing](#), Melvin Henley, President of [PAC Leaders](#), Dan McDuffie President of Destiny Decorators and Anna Hall, President of [P&H Devine Plumbing](#). Thanks to Brian and Trinidad Construction for your commitment to bringing diversity to the construction trades!



Save the Date

HIRE360 will host a virtual Lunch and Learn with the [Chicago Federation of Labor's Workforce and Community Initiative](#) on March 15, 2023. The session will cover on-the-job training (OJT), a federally funded program that helps employers hire and train individuals for long-term employment. OJT reimburses the training costs of new employees. Position(s) must pay a minimum of \$14.00 or statutory minimum for relevant locality an hour to qualify. There is no charge to employers to utilize this program.

Key Features of OJT Program

- Reimbursement of 50% - 90% of qualified trainee wages (up to \$10,000 or six months of employment)
- Minimal paperwork required
- Program is not restricted by industry or position
- Can be used with Apprenticeship programs

OJT Employer Benefits

- Overall increased productivity with highly trained employees
- Customized training plans suited to your business needs
- Higher worker retention rates

- Reimbursement of training costs
- Opportunity to invest in *your* business

How Does OJT Work?

OJT is a resource for employers hiring new employees to gain specific skills and employment competencies. We match qualified applicants with job openings. We refer pre-qualified applicants, or pre-screen your own applicants and notify you if they are eligible for OJT reimbursement.

Please contact Dave Thomas at DThomas@HIRE360Chicago.com for more information.



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

[From Homeless to Hopeful: LeAndre Perkins builds a career in construction, with the help of HIRE360 | WVON 1300, February 27, 2023](#)

When Perkins heard about HIRE360's pre-apprentice program at a career fair, he applied and was accepted. Perkins, who is now 29 years old, says HIRE360 inspired new passion, generated a path forward and is helping him build a stable life.

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





Partner Spotlight

The Male Mogul Initiative was founded by Walter Mendenhall IV, a former NFL player, in 2016 after a conversation he had with a student on the westside of Chicago. This student was a star basketball player, had an academic scholarship to go to college, and well respected amongst his peers. Despite all these great things, this student sold drugs to support his family. After that encounter, Walter realized that there are thousands of young men in this country who have the ambition, intelligence, and leadership qualities to be successful entrepreneurs. The missing component is exposure and opportunity.

The Male Mogul Initiative seeks to provide marginalized youth with the resources they need to become successful. The mission of the Male Mogul Initiative is to positively transform the way young men live and lead in their communities through leadership entrepreneurial development. Its vision is to inspire a generation to realize their potential and make the impossible, possible in their lives.

Since its founding, the Male Mogul Initiative has served over 3,000 people, employing over 190 minority youth/young adults and providing over 500 hours of leadership training. Additionally, we have supplied more than 1,000 hours of entrepreneurship training



Small Business Spotlight

For more than a century, the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago (BOMA/Chicago) has represented the interests of one of Chicago's greatest assets – its vibrant and dynamic office buildings. They are the premier trade association serving this increasingly important part of Chicago's economy and culture.

The association's primary members are made up of commercial office buildings and the management teams that run them. Additionally, they have their Affiliate Members which are companies that sell goods or services to the office building industry. Their Introductory Affiliate Membership is designed to give new or smaller companies the opportunity to expand their business by giving access to these property management teams. Our Affiliate Members provide a network of products and professional services that are essential to the success of Chicago's commercial building industry. By joining BOMA/Chicago, you'll have access to exclusive opportunities to develop relationships with the office building decision makers and build your client base, driving the success of your business.

This category of membership bypasses the full membership rule requiring letters of recommendation, once in

and have provided over 1,650 hours of in-school and out-of-school intervention. In 2022, the Male Mogul won the the Chicago Innovation Award that goes to companies that provide innovation solutions to complex problems in Chicago.

The Male Mogul recently partnerd with HIRE360 to help young men develop skills and provide training and opportunity.

membership you are able to attend their events and educational programming. The hope is that you can build your business and transition into the full Affiliate Membership.

To learn more about BOMA/Chicago visit our website www.bomachicago.org or contact Beth Halat, Director of Member Services at bhalat@bomachicago.org .

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