

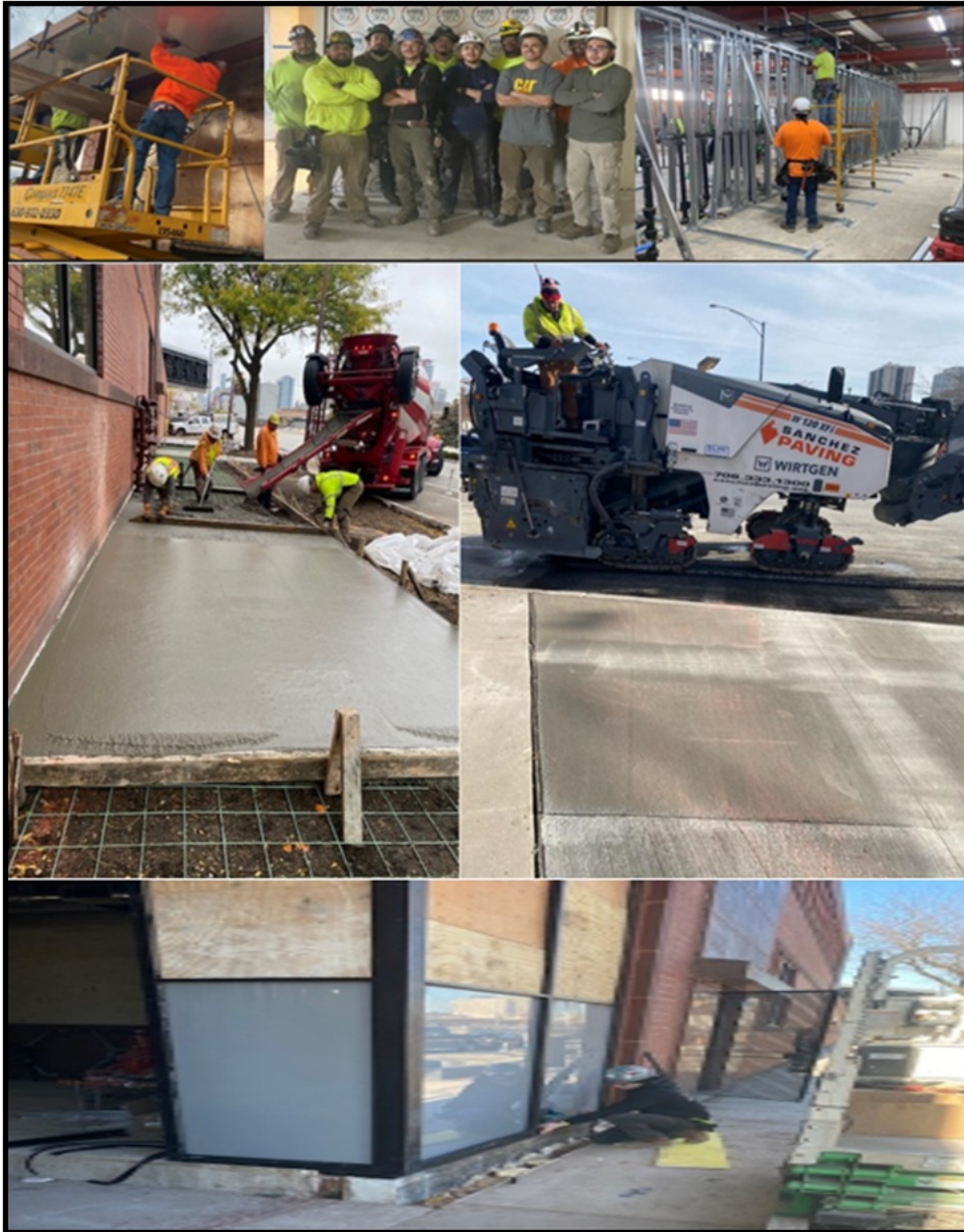


## Industry Led. Community Focused.

DECEMBER 2023 E-NEWSLETTER

### Training Center Update

We would like to thank the apprentices of the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#) for their continued work, [Specialty Construction](#), [CSI3000 U.S. Architectural Glass and Metal](#), and [Sanchez Paving](#) for all their recent work on our Training Center. It is looking amazing and we are so excited to move in!



Workforce Development

## HIRE360 Case Study

We are honored that [Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations' Climate Jobs Institute](#) recently highlighted HIRE360's apprenticeship readiness program as a model in its [Building an Equitable, Diverse, & Unionized Clean Energy](#) case study. Our Executive Director Jay Rowell and [Climate Jobs Illinois](#) Equity Director Chynna Hampton had the privilege of joining a panel discussion alongside Apprenticeship Readiness Collective and CityBuild. There, we learned best practices from these two exceptional organizations also featured in the report. Sincere thanks to Zach Cunningham, Melissa Shelter and the Cornell team for recognizing our work to expand apprenticeship opportunities. Being included alongside such impactful programs is invaluable affirmation as we continue striving to open career pathways in the skilled trades.

[Read the full report here.](#)



## Success Story: Edgar Valejo



Just two years ago we shared the story of HIRE360 candidate Edgar Valejo and his exciting journey from Package Handler to Apprentice Carpenter. We kept up with Edgar, supporting him on the first steps of his new career through the HIRE360 Mentorship program. Our Mentorship program supports new apprentices in building their networks, learning more about the industry, and developing leadership skills. Today, Edgar was proud to share with us that he's been selected to serve as a Steward with the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#). We are excited to see HIRE360 candidates not just enter a new career but take leadership in their unions and in the industry! Congrats to Edgar for his efforts and we look forward to seeing even more of your future

success!

## Morton East High School's Trades and Manufacturing Expo

HIRE360 participated in Morton East High School's Trades & Manufacturing Expo, on Nov 30. HIRE360 was joined by some of the locals, such as the [IBEW Local 134 Electricians](#), [Roofers](#), [Mid-America Carpenters Council](#), and [Pipefitters](#), along with other industry representatives to provide students with career choices. Approximately, 700 students attended this event and gathered information at each table to learn more about the construction and manufacturing industries. The students demonstrated a high energy and great interest in their career options.



## We Rise Together

Our Executive Director Jay Rowell joined a panel discussion at the [Chicago Community Trust](#) hosted by [We Rise Together](#), which is making significant investments in long-disinvested Black and Latinx communities and creating valuable community partnerships. Thank you to We Rise Together for all their support of our work.



## Outreach Event

This month, our Director of Workforce Development, Ana Maria Montes de Oca Rojas and our Director of Business Development and Supply Chain, Deborah Whitaker, represented HIRE360 at an event hosted by [Rainbow Push](#) where we discussed the Mega Projects across Chicagoland totaling \$100 Billion over the next 10-15 years. We also discussed how candidates can join HIRE360!



## Tradesgiving

Last month, our Mentorship Program hosted its first Tradesgiving at the future home of our Training Center. Forty-three mentees showed up for the fun. Mike Hartge, Regional Equity Advisor for Climate Jobs Illinois, gave a motivating presentation about the history of the trades and the benefits of becoming involved in their union. The mentees were able to eat dinner and enjoy each other's company after the presentation.



## Apprenticeship Program Openings

HIRE360 is excited to announce that our trade partners are accepting applications for their apprenticeship programs:

- [Plumbers' JAC Local 130](#), UA will be accepting only online applications for admission to the Plumbing Apprenticeship Program through February 2024 or

the first 2,000 application, whichever occurs first online.

- [Finishing trades Institute of DC 14 Chicago](#) is accepting applications all year round. You must make an appoint online or by phone M- F from 7 am 3 pm. For more information contact your case manager.

For those individuals interested in applying and needing a letter of recommendation, please contact your HIRE360 Case Manager today or email us at [info@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:info@HIRE360Chicago.com).

## Business Development

### Brightview Lunch & Learn

We are honored to host a contractor outreach event for [BrightView](#) regarding their work on the [The Obama Presidential Center](#). As a valued partner dedicated to expanding opportunities, BrightView helped us connect with diverse contractors to take on present and future projects that shape our shared community.



### Related Contractor Event

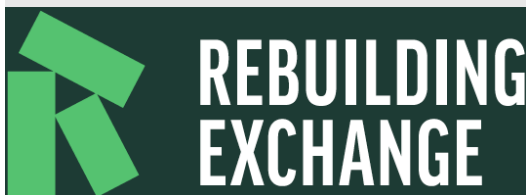
[Related Midwest](#) partnered with HIRE360 to host two informative contractor workshops at the future home of our Training Center. At this event, we discussed creating a collaborative and inclusive environment for contractors and subcontractors for their upcoming 400 Lake Shore Drive project. Related Midwest's VP of Construction, Yanet Garcia, also discussed enhancing the construction industry's understanding and practice of inclusive leadership and DEI principles through promoting a more inclusive and respectful work environment to help foster improved collaboration, increased productivity, and enhanced employee satisfaction. HIRE360'S Director of Business Development and Supply Chain, Deborah Whitaker, explained the importance of being prepared for the financial and operational requirements such as access to capital and obtaining lines of credit and bonding before there is an urgency. Participants also learned about the additional resources available through HIRE360's technical assistance services as well as assistance with workforce requirements, on the job training (OJT), employee training incentives, (ETIP), employer reimbursement programs, and preparing high school students for careers in the construction industry. We are excited about the opportunity to be instrumental in bringing the needed resources to enhance and increase the capacity for inclusion in Chicagoland construction projects.



# Youth Engagement

## HIRE360 and CPS Start Summer Internship Plans

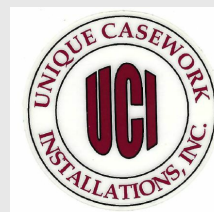
HIRE360 met with Chicago Public School's [Early College and Career Education \(ECCE\)](#) department along with over 60 other industry partners at a work-based learning summer internship kick-off meeting on 12/6. This meeting was held at the [Plumber's 130 Union Hall](#). We employed teens through the [ECCE's](#) program last summer, giving students valuable exposure and experience in Construction. If you want to learn how you can participate and host students, please email us at [youth@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:youth@HIRE360Chicago.com).



### Partner Spotlight

[Rebuilding Exchange](#) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to reuse building materials, reduce construction waste, and train, support, and connect people seeking careers in the building trades.

Rebuilding Exchange provides access



### Small Business Spotlight

Unique Casework Installation, Inc., owned by Patrica Davis, is a millwork/casework installation, material supplier, and carpentry company that completes its customer's project needs. They have a dedicated team of experienced carpenters who specialize in

to rewarding careers, including union apprenticeships, through its Pre-Apprenticeship and transitional employment programs. They train more than 100 individuals each year *and* save more than 3 million pounds of usable building materials from landfills annually through their retail stores in Evanston and Chicago (Bucktown) and deconstruction services. Their large inventory includes everything from modern appliances and antique light fixtures to old growth lumber and doors.

Rebuilding Exchange is proud to partner with HIRE360 with the goal of educating our community on the process of entering the unionized construction trades.

commercial and residential projects. Their expertise is focused on hospitals, airports, schools, residences, restaurants, retail buildouts, and high-end commercial buildouts. Their staff has more than 35 years of construction expertise and they are recognized for their integrity and ability to complete complex and simple projects by many general contractors and private clients.

Unique Casework has been a community business leader on the west side of Chicago that demonstrates the HIRE360 'each one teach one' philosophy. Multiple former journeymen that Patrica's company sponsored into the trades have since formed their own businesses and are HIRE360 clients. Unique Casework has received assistance from HIRE360 in acquiring access to capital, bonding, and networking opportunities.

#### CORE COMPETENCIES

- Casework
- Millwork
- Doors, Frames, & Hardware
- Rough & Finish Carpentry
- Drywall & Framing
- Siding
- Indoor & Outdoor Bleachers
- Auditorium Seating
- Lockers
- Demolition
- Material supplier

#### CORPORATE CLIENTS

- University of Chicago Medical Center
- Rush University Medical Center
- Chicago Public Schools
- Public Building Commission
- Chicago Housing Authority
- O'Hare Airport
- Advocate Hospitals
- Lutheran General Hospital
- City Colleges of Chicago
- Lindon Oaks Hospital
- Decatur Community College

To learn more about Unique Casework Installations, Inc. please contact them

at (773) 522-7771 or  
[uniquecasework@comcast.net](mailto:uniquecasework@comcast.net).

# HIRE360

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