



**Industry Led. Community Focused.**

OCTOBER 2024 E-NEWSLETTER

## Training Center Update

### **Training and Business Development Center Ribbon Cutting**

Thank you to everyone who came and made our grand opening so special. It was great to see so many of our partners and it was an honor to have Governor Pritzker, Lt. Governor Stratton, Mayor Johnson, Congressman Krishnamoorthi, Alderperson Dowell and so many other elected and civic leaders join us. Check out the photos - Ribbon Cutting Photos.

Now it is your turn, stop by. We look forward to seeing you!

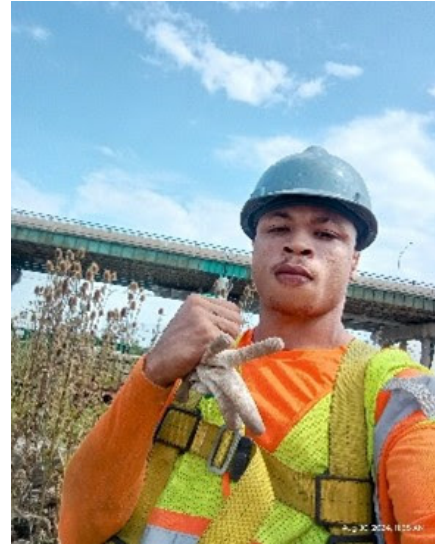


# Workforce Development

## Success Story: Jakeem Johnson

Jakeem Johnson, a 32-year-old resident of Blue Island, Illinois, exemplifies the transformative power of perseverance and finding one's true calling. Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, Jakeem's early life was a blend of resilience and dreams. At 13, his family moved to the suburbs, marking the beginning of a new chapter.

After graduating high school and attending college, Jakeem embarked on a career path that, while steady, didn't truly fulfill him. He worked at Amazon for four years. Although the job provided stability, it didn't align with his long-term aspirations. When he was unexpectedly let go, it initially felt like a setback. However, in hindsight, it was a pivotal turning point that set him on a path of self-discovery and renewal.



With six children—three boys and three girls—and a supportive girlfriend, Jakeem's motivation to secure a better future for his family was unwavering. He started working at a non-union painting company, earning \$17 per hour, a significant drop from his previous wage of \$24.35. The financial setback was challenging, but he realized that painting was a skill he could leverage to build a more secure future.

Determined to turn this challenge into an opportunity, Jakeem dedicated himself to improving his craft. His perseverance paid off when a former coworker, who had been a union painter, introduced him to the [Local 1332 Painters Union](#). She took him to the union's meetings, where he learned about HIRE360 from the union representatives. They explained how HIRE360 could provide additional support and resources to help him succeed.

Attending these meetings became part of Jakeem's routine, and his commitment didn't go unnoticed. After weeks of dedication and networking, he received a call about a job opportunity with the union. It was a moment of triumph and relief. His hard work and patience had finally paid off.

Now, just three weeks into his new role with the Painters Union, Jakeem looks back on his journey with gratitude. "I wish I'd known about the union earlier," he often says. "Painting is something I truly enjoy, and it pays well. Working at Amazon was comfortable, but it wasn't leading me to the future I wanted."

## Latinx Business Reception - Thursday, October 10

Join us this evening in conjunction with the MWRD and HIRE360 for the Latinx Business Reception in celebration of Latinx Heritage Month. The event will take place on Thursday, October 10, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the HIRE360 Training and Business Development Center, located at [2540 S. State St, Chicago](#).

This reception underscores our mutual dedication to cultivating a diverse and skilled workforce that aligns with MWRD's needs and the expanding career opportunities in the water sector.

Highlights of the event include:

- A tour of HIRE360's cutting-edge Training and Business Development Center
- A discussion on workforce development
- Insights from HIRE360 mentors and mentees
- A networking hour with MWRD partner agencies and union organizations

We would be delighted to have you or a member of your team join us. To RSVP, please email Ana Maria Montes de Oca Rojas at [amontesdeocarojas@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:amontesdeocarojas@HIRE360Chicago.com).

## Clean Energy Initiatives

HIRE360 had the privilege of joining several key elected officials and contractors dedicated to advancing a more equitable clean energy workforce.

As proud recipients of [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship grants](#), HIRE360 celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) alongside Solar Powers Illinois.

The event was held at Magid Glove, a 700,000 sq. ft. facility that houses one of the largest rooftop solar arrays in the Midwest, featuring over 10,000 photovoltaic solar panels producing 3,800 kW of clean power.

Together, we are committed to creating sustainable job opportunities and fostering a diverse workforce in the clean energy sector.



## CTA Workforce Outreach Event

We were honored to participate in the CTA Workforce Outreach Event at the Columbus Park Refectory! Employers and organizations came together to offer job opportunities and resources to job seekers. We were joined by CTA Workforce Partners, building trades, workforce agencies and construction contractors. Around 100 individuals attended, and our staff connected with many attendees, with great support from our current candidates Alphonso and Dana Christiel, Barrius Malone and Corey Rogers. As the CTA's placement partners, we're excited to join in these events to connect our candidates to these CTA job opportunities!



## Mentorship Updates

Our latest Mentorship workshop kicked off with great enthusiasm, providing candidates with a hands-on experience using essential job site tools. This event allowed participants to not only observe but also actively engage with the tools that shape our built environment.

A special thanks to Mark Goeden from Related Midwest, Austin Barchett from Bosch Tool Corporation, and Victor Guzman from Carpenters Union Local 1889 for their expert demonstrations on measurement, power, and carpentry tools. The workshop was further enriched by our dedicated mentors—David Castrejon, Citlaly Moreno Chagoya, Sophia Irizarry, Eddie Martin, and Edgar Vallejo—who showcased the tools of their respective trades, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for all attendees.

Interested in joining our Mentorship Program? Contact your case manager or email [training@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:training@HIRE360Chicago.com) or [HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:HIRE360Chicago.com).

We can't wait to have you with us!



## Workforce Partner Networking Session



We had a fantastic time hosting our partners for a happy hour and an insightful discussion on mentoring. Huge thanks to Revolution Workshop , Rebuilding Exchange and the Chicago Federation of Labor 's Workforce and Community Initiative for joining us. Special appreciation to Bridges to Brighter Futures for bringing us all together for these meaningful conversations!



## Apprenticeship Openings

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

### **Bricklayers:**

- Bricklayers create architectural works of art with stone and tile. As with all trades, you should be prepared to work hard, outside and at heights on a regular basis to succeed in this trade. Applicants will be accepted throughout the year. Applications will be available Monday through Friday between 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the DCTC office or online at [www.bac2school.org](http://www.bac2school.org). Secure your spot by applying today.

### **Electricians IBEW 134:**

- Electricians assemble, install, maintain, and test electrical equipment and wiring systems in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. The apprentice program is five years in duration, and is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. The program consists of on-the-job training provided by union electrical contractors, and related classroom instruction. Applications are accepted every Wednesday between 9 am-11 am. For more information contact your case manager.

### **Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17:**

- The vital work of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers has saved energy, saved money, and saved lives. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17 offers an excellent five-year apprenticeship program that is now open for online applications.

### **International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150:**

- Applications are still open for trades such as Heavy Equipment Repair Technician, Geothermal Well Driller Operator, and Construction & Building Inspector. If you are interested, please contact your case manager.

### **Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council:**

- As a Union Carpenter, your essential responsibilities include constructing, repairing, and installing various structures and fixtures made of wood and other materials. You'll work with precise measurements, cut materials, shape components, and assemble them according to specified plans and designs. Applications being accepted until October 11.

### **Pipefitters Local 597:**

- Are you interested in becoming a Pipefitter? Pipefitters work in industrial settings building systems that deliver gas, steam, chemicals and other necessary components that keep factories and manufacturing plants running. Pipefitters work outdoors on projects on a massive scale. Applications are available by registering for an application session here. Registration open on the **FIRST** Wednesday of the month

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).

## **Coming Next Month**

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) offers numerous benefits for future apprentices. To register to attend click on the link or contact your case manager.

- Monday, November 18th, 2024: Iron Worker Local 63 Tour [Register Here](#)
- Tuesday, November 19th, 2024: IUEC Local 2 Tour [Register Here](#)
- Wednesday, November 20th, 2024: Bricklayers Tour [Register Here](#)
- Thursday, November 21st, 2024: Panel: Life as an Apprentice [Register Here](#)
- Friday, November 22nd, 2024: Plumbers Local 130 Tour [Register Here](#)

## **Join Us at HIRE360!**

Come join us at HIRE360! We're a dynamic and creative team, dedicated to excellence and quality. We value our employees and foster a team-oriented environment with a larger purpose of serving our community. Be a part of driving meaningful change! Apply now for one of our exciting open roles. [Click here](#) to view our open positions.

# Business Development

## Clark Construction Strategic Partnership Program (SPP)

The 11th season of Clark Construction's Strategic Partnership Program (SPP) kicked off on the campus of the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) with an orientation on September 18th. HIRE360 has enjoyed a tremendously successful relationship with Clark, thanks to its work with Javid Aboutorabi, Chicago & National Director of Clark's SPP program. Javid has been working with HIRE360 Business Development to identify many of the nearly 40 individuals who are participating in this year's cohort.



Participants got to hear from industry experts including Dale Morrison, Director of Procurement Diversity at UIC, Juan-Pablo Prieto, Director of Diversity Programs at CTA, and Dave Thomas, Manager of Business Development and Supply Chain at HIRE360. They also got to hear a testimonial from SPP alum and HIRE360 client, Melvin Henley, President of Pac Leaders Construction. Henley spoke of the lessons he learned through the SPP program and how they have helped him to grow his business.

HIRE360 promotes programs like SPP to its Business Development clients. The SPP program provides participants with comprehensive business and construction management skills training to increase their business acumen, prepare them to pursue future opportunities, and realize smart, sustainable growth. The program is offered at no cost to participants and features a curriculum designed to build business and project management competencies. The Strategic Partnership Program underscores the importance of teamwork and forming strategic relationships to strengthen competitive advantage and the likelihood of success on new pursuits.

SPP classroom topics include:

- Finance and Accounting
- Insurance and Bonding
- Project Management
- Contract Review
- Estimating
- Purchasing
- Networking and Presentation Skills

To learn more about this and other training programs, reach out to HIRE360 Business Development at [dthomas@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:dthomas@HIRE360Chicago.com).



## **Crain's Chicago Business Recognizes Deborah Whitaker as a 2024 Notable Black Leader**

We're proud to share that [Deborah Whitaker](#), our Director of Business Development and Diverse Supply Chain, has been named one of [Crain's Chicago Business Notable Black Leaders for 2024!](#)

Over the past four years, Deborah has supported 180+ minority and women-owned businesses, securing over \$15 million in loans and providing mentorship. Her efforts were key in helping Calvin Payne of Simply E & C grow his business through our Business Development Program. She also serves on the Illinois Works board, advocating for workforce equity. Congratulations, Deborah!



## **Opportunity for Veteran Owned Contractors**

We were excited to host Senator Tammy Duckworth at our new Training and Business Development facility, where she learned more about Great Lakes [ReNEW](#) and its efforts to boost the Great Lakes region's economy. A huge thank you to [Current](#) for leading this great initiative.

At the meeting, Senator Duckworth expressed her desire to see more involvement of veterans in the construction industry as contractors and suppliers. Considering that, Whitaker, along with Business Development Manager, Dave Thomas, met with Nancy Conner, Director of Certification at the National Veteran-Owned Business Association NaVOBA to discuss ways to increase the number and participation of veteran certified businesses in the construction industry. NaVOBA can assist with Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) and Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (SDVBE) certification services are free to the business owners. More information below.



**Show Me the Money**

...in-kind contracts was used to small business...  
**Rules and Regulations**  
**Open and Innovative**  
**Concierge Service**

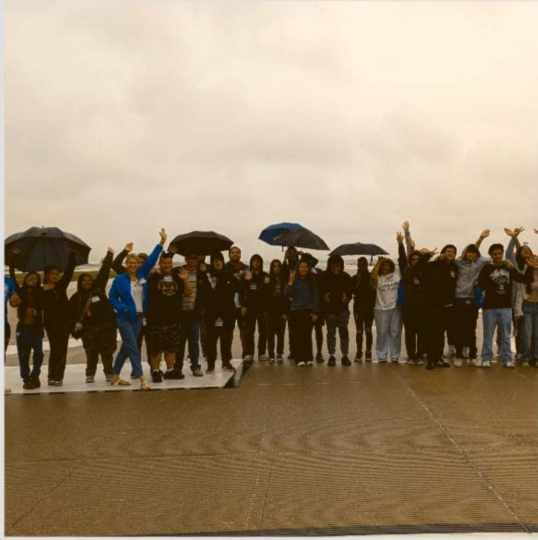
NavOBA

To learn more visit [www.navoba.org](http://www.navoba.org)

# Youth Engagement

## CDA + CPS Kick Off Student Tours

In September, the Chicago Department of Aviation, Chicago Public Schools in partnership with HIRE360 and Clayco kicked off this school year's tours of O'Hare Airport for high school students. A group of seniors from Taft High School got great info about careers, surveyed the new construction, and got a demonstration from the Fire Department! We plan to continue these tours throughout the school year to expose students to the construction trades.



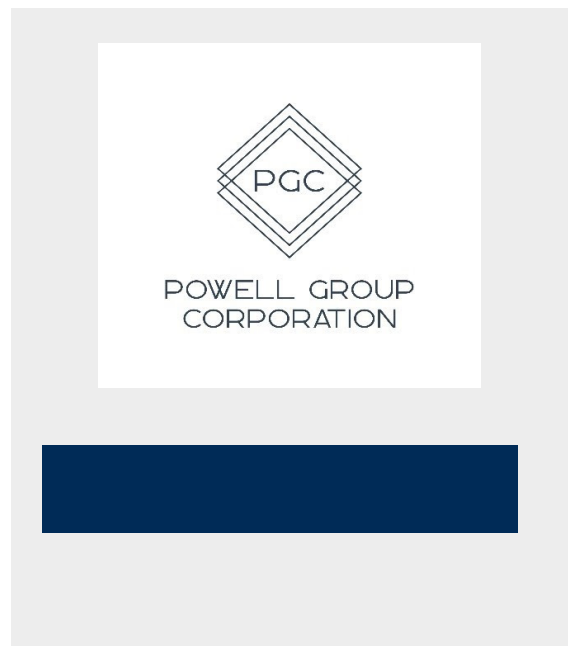
**Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities**

## IN THE NEWS

**HIRE360 opens new training facility in Chicago | Reporter Name | Fox 32 Chicago, September 26, 2024**

As Chicago's skyline grows, so does the demand for skilled hands to build it and Hire360 is ensuring the city's workforce is ready to rise to the challenge.

Watch the full coverage here.



Imagine Englewood if (IEi) is the longest-serving nonprofit in Englewood dedicated to creating safe and empowering spaces for youth in the Greater Englewood community. IEi strengthens the Greater Englewood community by teaching local youth and their families positive communication skills, healthy living, and environmental awareness.

IEi was founded in 1997 by two community advocates—Jean Carter Hill and Helen Arnold Massey—who sought tools to improve the quality of life for residents in the Greater Englewood community. Under the leadership of Michelle Rashad, Executive Director and West Englewood native, IEi is the owner and operator of West Englewood-based nonprofit and community-based coalition, We Grow Chicago (formerly named I Grow Chicago).

IEi operates out of its Peace Campus, located at 6400 S. Honore. This campus is a block of 16 houses, two open lots, a community garden, two basketball courts and a nature play lot which serves as a resource hub for residents to obtain immediate basic essential needs, access to community connection through year round events, and job employment resources. An example of a great employment resource is our partners HIRE360 whom we have signed a MOU with to get clients into unionized construction trades. The Peace Campus is an essential component for the reimagining of a Greater Englewood community and available to all residents in need of services or support.

Tyrone E. Powell, Jr. is the Founder of Powell Group Corporation (PGC), a general contractor and a supplier of high-quality doors, door frames and hardware. They are located at 2201 W. Walnut Street, Chicago, on the city's west side. They came to HIRE360 Business Development seeking assistance with bonding, access to capital, and other resources. Powell's door supplier business is one of two diverse supplier businesses that will receive a one year lease to house their supply business at HIRE360'S warehouse location at 2940 S. State at no cost to give start up diverse suppliers an opportunity to get their business going.

PGC combines years of successful experience and creative talent with the resources to reduce risk and approach each opportunity in the most simple, straightforward, and affordable terms. They pride themselves on providing solutions to the many needs of the construction industry. Through their extensive pool of highly qualified carpenters, subcontractors, and suppliers, they offer turnkey solutions for single source projects and programs.

PGC specializes in home remodeling and rehabbing vacant senior and multi-family living facilities, owned by the Chicago Housing Authority. They have a reputation for enhancing the quality of life for seniors and families by creating safe, comfortable, and beautiful living spaces through their expertise in construction, remodeling, and the installation of high-quality doors. They are committed to surpassing expectations, fostering lasting relationships, and making a positive impact on the communities they serve.

PGC has cultivated strategic relationships with leading commercial door manufacturers, enabling them to stock all standard size high-quality fire-rated doors and hardware. Their expedited procurement process has empowered PGC to streamline operations, ensuring timely project completion and client satisfaction.

Powell Group Corporation holds the following certifications:

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
- Section 3 Business Concern
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)
- Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (VBE)
- Be Enrolled Business Enterprise Certification Program (BE BEP)

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