



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2024

Daniella DiMartino

Rise Strategy Group

C: 845-750-9822

E: [daniella@risestrategygroup.com](mailto:daniella@risestrategygroup.com)

### **HIRE360 EXPANDS 'EMPOWERING FUTURES' WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$250,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM CONSTELLATION**

*Partnership Expands Access to High-Demand Jobs for Underrepresented Communities in Illinois, Providing Vital Skills in Energy and Construction Sectors*

**CHICAGO (October 31, 2024)** — HIRE360, a leading nonprofit focused on expanding economic opportunities for underserved communities, is pleased to announce an additional \$250,000 contribution from Constellation (Nasdaq: CEG) to help expand the organization's "Empowering Futures" workforce development program. This second installment brings Constellation's total investment to \$500,000, further supporting efforts to increase access to family-sustaining jobs in the clean energy and building trades sectors for underrepresented communities in Illinois.

"The impact of this program is already being felt across Illinois," **said Jay Rowell, Executive Director of HIRE360.** "By helping candidates from underrepresented communities enter high-demand fields like construction and clean energy, we are not only creating pathways to stable, long-term careers but also fostering a stronger, more equitable workforce. We look forward to growing this support as we prepare for the next cohort and broaden access to critical training programs."

Launched in 2023, the "Empowering Futures" program has already had a significant impact by enrolling 15 individuals from diverse backgrounds, including nine men and three women, equipping them with the necessary skills and training to enter the workforce. Graduates have secured apprenticeships with unions such as Riggers Local 136, Carpenters, and Laborers Local 76. Several participants have also gained employment with the Chicago Transit Authority and the State of Illinois, while others are currently interviewing for roles at Constellation, including positions in Mechanical Maintenance.

The “Empowering Futures” program is actively recruiting participants for its next cohort, which will start on January 6, 2025. The program will offer MASS test preparation, soft skills workshops such as resume writing and mock interviews, and job placement assistance in the energy and construction sectors. Additionally, a nationwide Virtual MASS Test Program launched on October 15, 2024, provides independent test preparation for aspiring candidates in skilled trades. For more information, please visit [hire360chicago.com/empoweringfutures/](https://hire360chicago.com/empoweringfutures/).

“As the nation’s largest producer of emissions-free energy, we’re committed to expanding access to family-sustaining clean energy jobs for people in our communities,” said **Ray Stringer, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Constellation**. “We’ve seen the real impact of this program in creating new career opportunities for local women and men who are underrepresented in the energy and building trades and have increased our funding to further reduce barriers to entry in these essential and growing fields.”

With the demand for skilled labor in green energy trades rapidly increasing, HIRE360 and Constellation’s ongoing collaboration continues to position participants for success in these vital industries. Through this partnership, underrepresented and historically underserved individuals will gain access to the skills and opportunities they need to thrive in the future workforce.

**###**

### **About HIRE360**

Launched in January 2020, HIRE360 is an industry-led, community-focused nonprofit ensuring that our city’s future is inspired by all the communities that call Chicago home. Our “demand” driven approach to workforce development allows a direct connection with employers and unions to develop workforce recruitment and training programs that meet the specific and timely employment needs of the hospitality and construction sectors. As a workforce intermediary, we identify, recruit, skill up and help community members navigate the apprenticeship process. Our business development program creates wealth and career opportunities in Chicago’s communities by investing capital, time and mentorship to help Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises start, grow and thrive. Learn more at [www.HIRE360Chicago.com](https://www.HIRE360Chicago.com).

### **About Constellation**

A Fortune 200 company headquartered in Baltimore, Constellation Energy Corporation (Nasdaq: CEG) is the nation’s largest producer of clean, emissions-free energy and a leading supplier of energy products and services to businesses, homes, community aggregations and public sector customers across the continental United States, including three fourths of Fortune 100 companies. With annual output that is nearly 90% carbon-free, our hydro, wind and solar facilities paired with the nation’s largest nuclear fleet have the generating capacity to power the equivalent of 16 million homes, providing about 10% of the nation’s clean energy. We are further accelerating the nation’s transition to a carbon-free future by helping our customers reach their sustainability goals, setting our own ambitious goal of achieving 100% carbon-free generation by 2040, and by investing in promising emerging technologies to eliminate carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy. Follow Constellation on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).