



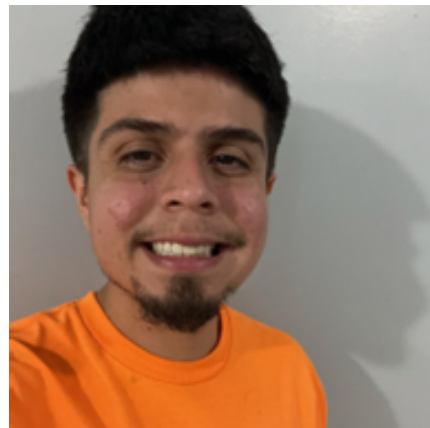
Industry Led. Community Focused.

DECEMBER 2024 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

Success Story: Juan Bernal

Juan Bernal, a 27-year-old from West Englewood, has a story that resonates with many. His parents came from Mexico years ago, seeking a better life. They arrived with nothing and faced numerous financial struggles. Growing up in Cicero, Illinois, Juan watched his parents work tirelessly to make ends meet. Despite these challenges, he graduated high school and even attended some college, but he always felt that college wasn't the right path for him.



Juan's life has been marked by significant challenges. At the age of 14, he was run over by a car. Miraculously, he survived, an experience that profoundly shaped his outlook on life. He also faced the heart-wrenching ordeal of almost losing his younger brother to drugs and alcohol. Thankfully, his brother recovered, and these experiences only strengthened Juan's resolve to break the cycle of financial struggle and provide a better life for his family.

Juan is married to Wendy, and they have a three-year-old son named Misael. His family is his driving force. He wants to give them a life where they can be proud of him and feel secure. This determination led him to explore opportunities in the construction industry.

In January 2025, Juan will begin his pre-apprenticeship with the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#), a significant step towards achieving his goals. He credits HIRE360 for playing a crucial role in his journey. Introduced to HIRE360 by his friend Abner Arcet, who successfully entered the [electricians IBEW Local 134](#) apprenticeship through HIRE360's coaching and mentorship, Juan found the support and guidance he needed. Angelo, a representative from HIRE360, guided him through the application process, answered his questions, and provided a letter of recommendation. Angelo's regular check-ins ensured that Juan stayed on track.

Juan's achievements are a testament to his hard work and perseverance. He learned to drive a dingo and passed exams such as the herbicide exam and burn training at his previous job at Stantec. These accomplishments have equipped him with valuable skills and boosted his confidence. Juan's achievements are a testament to his hard work and perseverance. He learned to drive a dingo and passed exams such as the herbicide exam and burn training at his previous job at Stantec. These accomplishments have equipped him with valuable skills and boosted his confidence.

Juan's advice to others aspiring to enter the construction industry is simple yet profound: it's never too late to start. He encourages others to give their all, ask questions, and continuously learn. He believes that an apprenticeship is not just a job, but a career that can provide long-term stability and growth.

HIRE360 has been instrumental in Juan's journey. They provided him with the necessary information, training, and support to succeed. Juan is convinced that HIRE360 genuinely cares about helping people succeed, and he wholeheartedly recommends the program to others.

CTA Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

The CTA kicked off National Apprenticeship Week early by hosting the Fall Pre-Apprenticeship Fair at Richard Daley College on November 13th. CTA staff, workforce partners, CTA contractors, trade unions, and pre-apprenticeship trainers, were on hand to provide valuable information to individuals interested in the construction industry. HIRE360 staff met with numerous individuals interested in starting a career. Approximately 200 individuals attended the event. It was a pleasure to participate to the kickstart of National Apprenticeship week with CTA.



Award Recognition

HIRE360 was honored to accept the Partner Award from the **UNITE HERE Chicago Hospitality Institute**. Congratulations to Larita Clark and the MPEA team for their award, and thank you for so kindly housing us as we got up and running.

Deputy Director Julio Rodriguez of the DCEO's Office of Employment and Training gave inspiring remarks, and we wish all the best to the apprentices of UHCHI's Culinary Program as they take the next step in their exciting careers!



Celebrating Excellence in Workforce Development

We are proud to announce that HIRE360 received the Excellence in Workforce Development Award at the **Austin Coming Together 2024 Membership Awards**! We were joined by Starr Jones, an Austin native and HIRE360 participant, who was able to work on ACT's Aspire Center as a union carpenter.

Our partnership with Austin Coming Together has created jobs, transformed lives, and uplifted communities. This award is a testament to the power of collaboration and resilience in creating a stronger, more inclusive Chicago, and we were honored to accept the award from last year's recipient **Cara Chicago Collective**.



Celebrating Illinois Works Graduates

Congratulations to all of our HIRE360 Illinois Works graduates and a big thank you to Representative William Davis for his inspiring remarks at the ceremony. We had a wonderful cohort, and we look forward to helping them continue their paths toward amazing and fulfilling careers in the trades. We are so proud of the graduates and we wish them the very best of luck in this next phase of their careers!



TradesGiving 2024: Trivia Triumphs and Team Spirit!

In November, we held our annual TradesGiving event. Mentorship candidates participated in Trades Trivia, where each team, led by a mentor, showcased their knowledge on the trades, pop culture, Chicago sports, and sports logos. Congrats to our winning team, Yo Yo Yo!



Save the Date

Constructing Careers: A Bowa Talent Open House, an exclusive event for experienced construction professionals ready to take their careers to the next level.

Event Details:



Date: December 11, 2024



Time: 4:00 PM CST



Location: [222 S Jefferson St. Chicago, IL 60661](#)

This event is designed for professionals with experience in:

- **Estimating**
- **Project Management**
- **Project Engineering**
- **Safety**
- **Project Accountant**
- **Office/Admin support staff**

Attendees will:

- Network with industry leaders and peers.
- Learn about career opportunities at Bowa Construction.
- Gain insight into impactful projects across **Chicago and beyond**.
- Hear firsthand how Bowa Construction values **integrity, innovation, teamwork, and excellence** in every project.

How to Register:

Please encourage individuals to [click here to register](#) for this exciting event.

Apprenticeship Openings

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

Plumbers' JAC Local 130

- Plumbers' JAC Local 130 , UA will be accepting only online applications for admission to the Plumbing Apprenticeship Program through February 2025 or the first 2,000 application, whichever occurs first online.

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. 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.

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.

Business Development

Business Development Partnerships

HIRE360's Deborah Whitaker and Stephen Brown recently attended an exciting evening of conversations with our partners at JPMorgan Chase Global Philanthropy and Allies for Community Business on advancing our shared mission to empower diverse contractors and entrepreneurs. The meeting took place at the Allies for Community Business office and included a tour of The Hatchery Chicago, which is housed in the same building where so many talented chefs and food entrepreneurs are creating amazing things.

JPMorgan Chase is a partner of HIRE360 and supports our Loan Pool program and Allies for Community Business has been a welcome resource for loans and credit lines since the program's beginning. Many of the diverse contractors who are HIRE360 Business Development clients have benefitted from the program and have used the Loan Pool's funds to fulfill contracts and grow their business.



Webinar: Bonding for your Company

HIRE360 Business Development offers a series of webinars presented by industry experts designed to help clients be prepared for all aspects of business ownership and growth. The most recent featured Sharon Waldvogel, of Infinity Brokers, a company that provides bonding and many other surety needs. Waldvogel presented a webinar about why bonding is important and how to obtain or increase bonding for your company.

The webinar provided a comprehensive overview of bonding types, processes, and best practices. Participants learned about the three primary types of bonds: bid bonds, performance bonds, and payment bonds. Each serves a distinct purpose, ensuring that contractors fulfill their obligations and protecting project owners from financial loss. Waldvogel emphasized the importance of understanding these bonds not only for compliance but also for enhancing trust and credibility with customers.

The webinar also addressed common misconceptions surrounding bonding, such as the belief that it is solely an additional cost. Waldvogel highlighted that while there are fees involved, bonding can ultimately save money by mitigating risks and securing better contract terms. She used real-world case studies to illustrate how effective bonding strategies lead to successful project completions despite unforeseen challenges.

To make pursuing bonding easier, she demonstrated Infinity Brokers' "Bonding Portal" and shared examples of the documentation involved, to show how easy obtaining bonding can be. We thank Sharon Waldvogel and Infinity Brokers for sharing their expertise. To learn more about bonding and how HIRE360 can assist with obtaining it, contact Dave Thomas, Manager of Business Development and Supply Chain at (312) 217-9723 dthomas@hire360chicago.com.

Youth Engagement

HIRE360 and United Way of Metro Chicago Explore Career Pathways for Youth

HIRE360 recently participated in an event with [United Way Metro Chicago](#) to help a group of young people explore career opportunities and discuss ways to begin and pivot in their journeys. The group, [TA98 Suited for A Cause](#), mentors young adults ages 16-24 by providing career readiness, mentorship, employer access and more. The group of 25 met at [United Way's](#) office and rotated with us and others to hear about our mission and how to navigate career choices in any profession. We were more than happy to be a part of this event and help guide young people in a prosperous and fulfilling direction!



Community College Trades Fair

Last month, HIRE360 participated in the School Mechanical Technologies Trades Fair held at Moraine Valley Community College. The event brought together students from 10 different high schools, with 8 students from each school, totaling 80 students. It was a highly productive event, with the students showing great interest in pursuing careers in the trades.

Representatives from various local trade unions were present, including the Roofers, Pipefitters Local 597, Teamsters, Sheet Metal Workers Local 73, Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council, Boilermakers, Glaziers, and Operating Engineers. The students had the opportunity to interact with these professionals and learn more about their respective trades.

The students were divided into groups and participated in a hands-on area where they engaged in interactive exercises, providing them with a practical understanding of the skills required in these trades.



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

New HIRE360 center to boost diversity in Chicago's construction industry | Construction News, November 5, 2024



Read the full article [here](#).



Lawndale Christian Legal Center (LCLC) uniquely integrates legal matters and social services to ensure juveniles and emerging adults receive the services they need in their own community. LCLC provides holistic criminal defense and wraparound social services to clients, ages 25 and younger, who reside in North Lawndale, Austin, and East and West Garfield Park.



A leading visionary in information technology, Emerging Technology Integrators Limited (ETI) was founded in 2003, by Chicago native, Willie Jordan, as an asset to small businesses within the community of Columbus, Ohio. After years of success, coupled with a unique ability to anticipate client needs, ETI now focuses on providing advanced information technology systems to businesses of all sizes, including educational institutions, as well as local and state government agencies across the country.

LCLC's clients rely on an integrated legal-social team that is comprised of street outreach specialists who understand the various safety challenges they are navigating; a dedicated case manager who coordinates a wraparound support team to meet the young person's specific social needs; a licensed attorney providing zealous legal representation; and community partners that supply critical wraparound services.

LCLC is located in Chicago's North Lawndale community. In early 2025, they will open the Dr. Dennis Deer Community Justice Center. The Deer Center will feature offices for their legal and social service teams, and also provide studio-style housing for 20 emerging-adult men with active or prior cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County. This one-of-a-kind center will serve as an alternative to incarceration, offer on-site social services and educational support to diverted youth, and provide community space for treatment, recreation, peace circles and justice-related purposes. We are proud to partner with HIRE360!

ETI also provides and supports IT implementation for residential, commercial, and industrial construction projects. They are fully dedicated to businesses seeking high-quality support for managing their IT infrastructure. With over 50 years of combined experience in the technology industry, the ETI team boasts proven implementation skills, allowing them to provide powerful technology solutions coupled with top-tier, reliable support.

Their partnerships, certifications, and designations, in conjunction with their integration solutions, reflect and reiterate their commitment to their client base. This partnership not only serves their shared community but equips them to meet and exceed their organization's needs.

ETI provides the following services:

- Networks
- Wireless
- Security
- Microsoft Cloud Services
- IT Staffing
- Cisco Premier and Select Certified Partner

ETI is certified as an MBE, DBE, SBE and SDVOSB. They came to HIRE360 seeking assistance with access to capital, marketing, bonding, and access to public and private sector contracting opportunities.