



**Industry Led. Community Focused.**

FEBRUARY 2025 E-NEWSLETTER

## Workforce Development

### **Terrance Hall's Journey to Becoming an Electrician**

Growing up in the Calumet City area and West Pullman, Terrance Hall always had a passion for electrical work. Despite facing numerous challenges, he never gave up on his dream of becoming an electrician. Now 43 years old, Terrance's journey is a testament to perseverance.

Terrance's career began at Ford Motor Company from 2015-2023, where he developed a strong work ethic and an interest in joining a union. As a next step, he started the Electrical Trainee Helper program with [IBEW 134](#) in May 2023. Balancing his job at [Maron Electric Company](#) and raising his four children as a single parent was no easy feat.

One of the biggest challenges Terrance faced was taking the aptitude test for electricians. However, with the support of HIRE360 and his dedication to studying, he passed the test in October 2024, now preparing to attend the apprenticeship program orientation.

Terrance recommends HIRE360 to others, which he credits with providing the information and opportunities he needs to succeed.

Terrance's advice to those aspiring to join the construction industry is to consider the Trainee Helper program offered by [IBEW-NECA](#).





## Exciting News!

A huge shoutout to [Habitat for Humanity](#), [Power Construction](#), and Gerald Harper, Instructor, for providing one of our HIRE360 candidates with an incredible opportunity to gain hands-on experience framing the interior of a home in 2025. Our candidates are absolutely loving the experience and making the most of this fantastic learning opportunity!

Reach out to your case manager to learn more about the next opportunity.



## Mentorship

This month, our mentees learned about starting a business in the construction field with HIRE360's very own Deborah Whitaker. Deborah shared her wealth of experience, offering invaluable insights on how to launch a new business and secure capital for a startup. Our mentees walked away with a treasure trove of resources and knowledge on the best places to begin their entrepreneurial journey. Don't miss out on the next mentorship session!

Reach out to your case manager to learn more about upcoming opportunities.

**Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Highlights**



## Graduating the First Cohort of the Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program in Decatur

We're thrilled to celebrate the graduation of the first cohort of the Workforce Investment Solutions Pre-Apprenticeship Program in Decatur, part of our transformative [Climate Works initiative](#). This program is designed to help individuals from underrepresented communities build meaningful, family-sustaining careers in the clean energy and construction industries, creating opportunities that foster stability, purpose, and growth.

Fifteen candidates graduated in the initial cohort, with 87% transitioning into local trade unions. The cohort featured inspiring individuals like Lily Bailey, the only female candidate, and Albert Martin, the youngest participant at just 18 years old who is furthering his career with [IBEW](#). Graduates completed the program with essential credentials, including OSHA 10 certifications, and developed soft skills like teamwork and problem-solving.

Congratulations to our newest graduates on this incredible achievement! Your hard work and dedication are paving the way for a brighter, greener, and more equitable future.

## Recruitment

**HIRE360 Chicago Invites You to Our Commercial Learners Permit Test Prep Info Session!**

Are you a HIRE360 candidate seeking a Commercial Learners Permit and interested in construction apprenticeships? Join us to learn about the process and eligibility.

**Event Highlights:**

- Permit process overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Q&A with experts

**Learn More:** Contact your case manager or email [info@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:info@HIRE360Chicago.com) for more information on how to join our next session. We're here to support you in prepping for the next class!

We look forward to seeing you there!



## **PAID Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training**



**Get paid for 8 weeks of apprenticeship prep**, preparing you for a career as an apprentice in the Chicago construction industry.

The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program offers job site tours, valuable certifications, a one-on-one career coach, and more.

The HIRE360 Pre-Apprenticeship Program is funded in part by the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act. The Illinois Works Jobs Program Act was created as a result of Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion capital plan and his commitment to expanding equity in Illinois' construction workforce.

To apply you must be an Illinois resident who is 17 and a half or older, authorized to work in the U.S., have a flexible schedule, a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and the ability to travel to various locations.



**Register for one of our virtual information sessions to learn more about this program.**

**In-person Orientation for the next Cohort is approaching soon (must attend an informational session before Orientation). Sign up TODAY!**

## Get Ready for Open Trades Testing with Our Test Prep!

Are you gearing up for the upcoming open trades testing? We've got you covered! Our comprehensive test prep program, featuring expert guidance, practice materials, and valuable tips, is designed to help you succeed and achieve your goals.

Don't miss this opportunity to boost your skills and increase your chances of success.

Reach out to your case manager today to learn more about our test prep program and get started on the path to a brighter future in the trades!

### Exciting Opportunity with HIRE360!

Are you ready to take the next step in your career? Join HIRE360's IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship program starting this month! This 9-week hybrid program, held at our Chicago Training Center, will run from February to April 2025.

#### Why Join?

- Hands-On Training: Get practical experience in union construction trades.
- Career Advancement: Pave the way for a successful career in a high-demand field.
- Supportive Environment: Benefit from a community dedicated to your growth and success.

Don't miss out! For more information and to register, contact your HIRE360 Case Manager or email [info@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:info@HIRE360Chicago.com). Seize this opportunity to advance your career with HIRE360!

## Apprenticeship Openings!

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

#### Automobile Mechanics' Union Local 701 Training Fund:

- Applications are now being accepted for enrollment in the Automotive and Diesel Apprenticeship Programs for the July 2025 start. The application period will end April 30th. For more information, please reach out to your case manager.

#### Glaziers:

- Install and work on a wide range of systems and materials, including storefront framing, curtain walls, unitized systems, metal doors, glass doors, door hardware, automatic doors, glass panels, glass railings, skylight systems, insulated glass, photovoltaic glass, shower doors, glass in wood, metal or composite frames, and are certified in Shielded Metal Arc Welding.

#### Roofers Local 11:

- A career in roofing and waterproofing could be perfect for you If you like

working outdoors and often at heights. A Roofer and Water proofer perform many jobs: Applying hot and cold built-up roofing, applying various single ply roofing systems, Installing shingle, tile and slate roofs. Waterproofing foundations, plaza decks and traffic coatings. Lining ponds and tanks. Environmentally friendly green roofing systems.

#### **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 applications, 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](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.

#### **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 opens on the FIRST Wednesday of the month.

#### **IBEW Local Union 701 and NECA NE IL Chapter.**

- DuPage County JATC accepts applications EVERY TUESDAY. There are two training programs available: Commercial Electrician & Telecommunications Electrician.

For those individuals interested in applying and needing a letter of recommendation, please contact your HIRE360 Case Manager today or email us at

## Business Development



### Meet The Developer Event

We recently donated space at our Training and Business Development Center to [Climate Jobs Illinois](#) and the [IL AFL-CIO](#) for the impactful “Meet the Developer Lunch and Learn” event. This gathering brought together nearly 100 contractors, developers, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of upcoming construction projects and connect contractors to meaningful opportunities.

We extend our gratitude to the outstanding panelists, A.J. Patton of [548 Development](#), Jon Carson of [Trajectory Energy](#), and Charlotte Parker of [Dimension Energy](#), who shared their knowledge and vision for fostering equity and sustainability. HIRE360’s Deborah Whitaker and Jay Rowell kicked off the panel, which was moderated by Chynna Hampton of the IL AFL-CIO.

This event served as a powerful reminder of what collaboration can achieve. Together, we are creating pathways for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.



## BrightView OPC Outreach Event

HIRE360 was honored to host the [BrightView Landscaping](#) OPC Team's 2025 Kick-Off Lunch and Learn event on January 8, celebrating the company's commitment to subcontracting with diverse contractors working on the [Obama Presidential Center](#). This collaboration underscores the importance of fostering inclusion and opportunity within the construction industry.

BrightView's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion philosophy, "It Takes a Village," is more than a mantra, it's a guiding principle embedded into their planning, engineering, construction design, and implementation. The company is dedicated to building capacity for smaller minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses, providing them with opportunities to create generational wealth.

HIRE360 looks forward to hosting more events at our new Training and Business Development Center that support and empower diverse and women-owned businesses in current and future projects.

# Join Us



## Westside Gateway Opportunities Update

DBE EVENT

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Doors open at 9:30 am*

**HIRE360**

2540 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60616

*On Street Parking Available*



The CREATE Program will present upcoming opportunities for the Westside



project. The project will improve a 1.9-mile-long segment of the Union Pacific rail line along Rockwell Avenue between Fulton Street and 16th Street.

**WORK INCLUDES:**

- Concrete & Asphalt Work
- Landscaping
- Traffic Control
- Grading & Excavating
- Structural Repair & Removal
- Stormwater & Sewer Repair

Contractors, including Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) businesses will have the opportunity to learn more about the Westside Gateway Project, upcoming bid opportunities and required prequalifications, railroad supplier diversity, and the IDOT DBE program.

**REGISTER NOW!**

Scan The QR Code to Register for the Event

[bit.ly/WestsideGatewayEvent](https://bit.ly/WestsideGatewayEvent)



**A site visit will be offered at 1:00 pm following the presentation. PPE is required (hard hat, safety glasses, safety vest, and work boots).**



**Interested in CREATE Procurement?**

Sign up for the CREATE Procurement list to receive announcements about future procurement opportunities.

[www.createprogram.org/register-for-procurement-updates/](http://www.createprogram.org/register-for-procurement-updates/)



*This meeting is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Lisa Mentzer of Images Inc. at (630) 510-3944, ext. 104. People planning to attend who need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844 or 711; TTY users (Español) (800) 501-0864 or 711; and for Telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.*

*Esta reunión será accesible para personas discapacitadas. Las personas que planeen asistir y necesiten un intérprete de lenguaje de señas u otras adaptaciones similares deben notificar al número TTY/TTD (800) 526-0844/o 711; usuarios de TTY (español) (800) 501-0864/o 711; y para Telebraille marque (877) 526-6670 por lo menos cinco días antes de la reunión.*

**COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS**

Black Contractors United

Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council

Federation of Women Contractors

National Association of Minority Contractors Chicago Chapter

U.S. Minority Contractors Association

**Preservation Forward 2025!**

Landmarks Illinois invites you to Preservation Forward 2025 on **March 6, 2025**, at Chicago's iconic Old Post Office! Join us for an unforgettable evening dedicated to supporting preservation across Illinois. This annual event fuels Landmarks Illinois' mission to help


**PRESERVATION FORWARD**  
 save the date  
**03.06.2025**  
**5:30 – 11:00 p.m.**  
**the old post office**  
 433 VAN BUREN ST., CHICAGO  
LANDMARKS ILLINOIS' SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT

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**2025 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS INFLUENCERS**  
**Chicago Women in the Trades**  
Nonprofit trades training organization  
**Chris Enck**  
Architect & preservationist  
**Elizabeth & Ethan Finkelstein**  
Founders of Cheap Old Houses

sponsorships available > invitation to follow

communities protect and celebrate the places that matter. We were honored to be the recipient of the Influence Award last year, and we are excited to continue celebrating impactful preservation efforts.

Mark your calendar for the biggest night in preservation! Sponsorships are now available! To learn more, please visit [here!](#)

## Youth Engagement



### CPS 2025 Skilled Trades Fair is Here!

HIRE360 is excited to partner with [CPS](#), the [Chicago Teachers Union](#), and the Mayor's Office to host this year's CPS Skilled Trades Fair! Together, we're organizing a series of four impactful events designed to expose students to exciting career opportunities in the construction industry. One of these events will take place right here at our headquarters, where we'll give students a hands-on look at the many rewarding pathways available.

With support from partners like [IBEW 134](#), [ComEd](#), [LiUNA](#), [Plumbers' JAC Local 130](#), [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#), and [Dawson Technical Institute](#), students will engage in interactive panels, hands-on activities, and direct connections to job opportunities. By participating, they'll gain critical insights into the skilled trades and build connections with industry leaders.

If you'd like to showcase your construction business and help inspire the next generation, email Rashaan Meador at [rmeador@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:rmeador@HIRE360Chicago.com). Let's work together to help students discover their futures in construction!



**Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities**

**IN THE NEWS**

**WAND-TV**  
*Pre-Apprenticeship Program helps graduates to get started in new career*, by Hannah Flayhan

[Read the full article here.](#)



The Arab-American Business and Professional Association (ABPA) is a pivotal organization dedicated to uplifting the Arab American and Middle Eastern North African community in Illinois through advocacy, ABPA provides essential



Urban Roots is a social enterprise landscaping and snow removal company geared toward creating jobs for people in underserved communities. It is recognized as a leader in landscape maintenance and construction in the

tools, resources, and support aimed at facilitating the growth and success of small business owners and professionals.

By addressing the unique challenges faced by Arab American entrepreneurs, the association ensures that their voices are heard, and their needs are met in the spheres of media, government, and community organizations, ensuring building a vibrant community where members can thrive. Initiatives like the Emerging Leader Program, invest in the next generation of Arab American professionals, and a partnership with HIRE360 offers pathways to sustainable careers in Unionized Construction Trades.

With a strong emphasis on social responsibility, ABPA channels business success into community enrichment, driving economic prosperity and building a brighter future for generations to come.

greater Chicago area. Whether you need knowledgeable and expert landscape maintenance and construction, professional snow removal services, or parking lot maintenance, Urban Roots can help.

Founders Jimmie and Tiffany Williams grew the company from a home-based business with two clients to a commercial facility serving numerous commercial properties. Jimmie and Tiffany continue to give back to their community in many ways, serving commercial and industrial properties across Chicago while helping to train returning citizens on the skills they need to find jobs after incarceration.

HIRE360 is currently working with Urban Roots on increasing its current line of credit, preparing the company for becoming a union business, and making connections with private sector corporate entities.

Learn more at [www.urbanrootsinc.com](http://www.urbanrootsinc.com).

# HIRE360

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