



Industry Led. Community Focused.

JANUARY 2025 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

Success Story: Mario Grady

Mario Grady, 29, is married to his amazing wife of seven years and is a proud dad to a one-year-old son. His journey to where he is today has been anything but straightforward, but every step has led him to a career he truly loves.

Mario grew up in Chicago Heights, Illinois, with his brother, sister, and mom. Today, he lives in Glenwood, Illinois, which isn't far from where he started. After graduating high school, he took some college courses but didn't end up finishing. He spent years trying to find the right career fit, working at places like Toyota, Menards, and most recently, as a pharmacy technician at MacRx. Those jobs gave him valuable experience, but he didn't feel fulfilled. Something was missing.

Mario's uncle, a union pipefitter, played a huge role in helping him find his path. He would always talk about his work, how rewarding it was, and how it gave him a great life. After countless conversations, he convinced Mario to give it a shot—and Mario is so glad he did.

When Mario first started thinking about construction, he didn't know where to begin. That's when he found HIRE360, and it completely changed the game for him. HIRE360 provided financial support during his pre-apprenticeship, which was a big help for his family. It even reimbursed him for some of the work gear he needed, which made getting started much easier. Beyond the financial help, HIRE360 kept in touch with job opportunities and connected him with mentorship programs that gave him guidance and confidence.

Now, Mario is a second-year [pipefitting apprentice with Local 597](#), and he can honestly say he's enjoying every second of it. The work is challenging, but he loves learning something new every day and building skills that he knows will provide a stable future for his family.

HIRE360 has been a constant source of support, and Mario wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to anyone. Whether it's financial assistance, mentorship, or just knowing there's someone in your corner, HIRE360 staff have been there for him every step of the way.

This journey hasn't just been about a career change, it's been about finding a purpose and creating a better future for his wife and son. Mario is

proud of how far he's come and is excited for what lies ahead. His advice to anyone thinking about making a change is simple: Go for it. With the right support, you can achieve anything.



Success Story: Christian Brooks

Christian Brooks, a 21-year-old from the Beverly area, successfully completed the culinary program with [UHICHI](#) and HIRE360. The application process was incredibly quick, easy, and straightforward. From the start, HIRE360 staff assured him that they were there to support him and help him reach his goals. As part of the culinary program, HIRE360 guided him through various challenges by preparing him for mock interviews and ensuring he was punctual, organized, and ready to tackle each day. These skills have become part of his daily routine, helping him navigate the workday and strive to be his best at work.

Christian's advice to others considering the apprenticeship program is that HIRE360 truly has your back and is dedicated to helping you improve. He highly recommends HIRE360 to everyone because it is worth taking the steps to see personal growth.



Thank you, Constellation!

We are excited to share that HIRE360 has received an additional contribution from [Constellation](#) to expand our "Empowering Futures" workforce development program. This generous support will enable us to continue providing underrepresented communities in Illinois and beyond with access to valuable training and high-demand careers in the energy and construction industries. We appreciate Constellation's ongoing

partnership and commitment to creating opportunities that transform lives.



Climate Works Graduation

The first cohort of Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship program graduates turned their tassels at Goodwill of Northern Illinois' graduation ceremony in Rockford this week. The program helped these candidates prepare for great careers in the trades. Many of the candidates received their GEDs simultaneously a great accomplishment. We're excited to see what these candidates can achieve! A big thank you to the Illinois AFL-CIO, Climate Jobs Illinois and the State of Illinois.





Keshaun Jones walks into the Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois graduation ceremony Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, at Riverview Inn & Suites in Rockford. (Photo by Kevin Haas/Rock River Current)

Mentorship

In December, the HIRE360 mentorship program focused on strategies to support mentees as they prepare for the winter months. Participants had the opportunity to network and even took part in an ugly sweater contest. If you're interested in joining the mentorship program, you should be in your apprenticeship or accepted into a trade, eager to learn more about the trades, and open to having some fun. Reach out to your case manager if you'd like to attend our next mentorship meeting on January 23.



Join us for Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17 Training Facility Tour!

We are excited to host an apprenticeship tour at the [Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17](#) training facility on Thursday, January 9th, starting at 10:30 AM.

Heat & Frost Insulators play a crucial role in protecting a building's heating and cooling systems from energy loss and physical damage. This vital resource not only saves energy immediately but also pays for itself quickly, making it a game-changer in energy conservation. For many years, the specialists at Heat & Frost Insulators have been at the forefront of creating a safer, healthier, greener, and more efficient world, serving Chicagoland, Peoria, and Northwest Indiana.

If you are interested in learning more about this trade, we invite you to register for our in-person tour.

Look out for an email and/or reach out to your case manager as we look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date

Are you ready to take the next step in your career? Join HIRE360's IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship program starting February 2025! This 9-week hybrid program, held at our Chicago Training Center, will run from February 12 to April 18, 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.

Reach out to your case manager to secure your spot or email info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

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

IBEW Local Union 701 and NECA NE IL Chapter.

- DuPage County JATC is accepting 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 info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

Business Development

Growing Diverse Suppliers

As part of HIRE360's mission, we are helping to create and launch diverse suppliers. The first one we helped get off the ground was just over two years ago. It has been a wild ride since then. Over the last couple of months, we have helped get to more suppliers off the ground. More than that, this time we are donating space to help them get started.

The first supplier is the [Powell Group Corporation](#) (PGC), which is a West Side general contractor we have been working with for a couple of years and a supplier of high-quality doors, door frames and hardware. They came to HIRE360 Business Development seeking assistance with bonding, access to capital, and other resources. As his business grew, he was interested in getting into supplying materials. HIRE360 supported him in opening a door supply firm and with his first contracts in hand, we are donating 4,000 square feet to house his door supply firm and lower his costs as he gets started.

The second firm is [Air & Safety Wellness Training](#), which we have helped with working capital loans, helped her go signatory to the trades, back office support and more. As her business grew, she too was interested in getting into supplying materials. As a contractor who had done several caulking projects, including at O'Hare Terminal 5, it made sense for her to explore caulking and flooring.

Through a partnership with [Metzger/McGuire](#), she will start supplying caulk and concrete floor products throughout Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. To help her get off the ground, we are donating over 2,000 square to house her supply firm.

Please reach out to our Director of Business Development and Supply Chain, Deborah Whitaker at Dwhitaker@HIRE360Chicago.com to get connected to either firm.

Meet the Developer Event

Calling All... Contractors, Developers, and Non-Profit Organizations! Join [Climate Jobs Illinois](#) to hear from Renewable Energy Developers across the state to discuss their efforts in contractor partnerships, equity initiatives, and IRA benefits on January 16 from 12-2PM. Lunch will be served. Look forward to seeing you there. To RSVP, please email CHampton@ILAFL-CIO.org.



MEET THE DEVELOPER

LUNCH & LEARN

This free event will allow stakeholders to come and hear from Renewable Energy Developers across the state about their efforts in contractor partnerships, equity initiatives, and Inflation Reduction Act benefits.

HIRE360 TRAINING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

2540 S STATE STREET

JANUARY 16 12-2 PM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED FROM 12-1 PM

RSVP TO CHAMPTON@ILAFL-CIO.ORG

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Youth Engagement

CBEA Visits HIRE360 for Tour + More

The [Chicago Baseball and Educational Academy \(CBEA\)](#) visited the HIRE360 Training and Business Development Center for a tour of the facility and to learn about careers in the trades. These young men also learned how their skills in baseball, like teamwork, discipline, and leadership can be applied to a successful career in Construction. Players from [Carver Military Academy](#), [Lane Tech College Prep](#) and other schools participated and were able to get valuable insight into career options. [CISCO](#) and the [Chicago Federation of Labor](#) helped kick off this partnership with plans of doing additional tours in 2025!



We are thrilled to feature [Chicago Youth Programs \(CYP\)](#) in this month's newsletter! The mission of CYP is to improve the health and life opportunities of at-risk youth using a comprehensive approach aimed



[Supreme Solutions, Inc. \(SSI\)](#) is a Small Business Administration (8A) Certified business that provides Program Management, Acquisition Support, Information Technology (Data Analysis, Application Development &

at developing their capabilities.

In the past year, they have achieved remarkable milestones, including retaining 97% of their participants from 2023-2024 and celebrating a 100% high school graduation rate among our participants. Their programs serve diverse neighborhoods across Chicago, including Washington Park, Uptown near North Cabrini Green, and North Lawndale, ensuring that every young person has the tools they need to succeed.

Excitingly, HIRE360 is proud to announce our new partnership with CYP! This collaboration will provide their participants with unparalleled access to training and job placement in the construction and skilled trades sectors. Together, we are committed to opening doors for our youth, equipping them with essential skills, and connecting them to meaningful career paths.

Cyber Security) Systems Engineering Services, Financial/Budget Support Services, Training Support, and Logistics Services. SSI was founded in 2004 and is projected to become one of the nation's leading Professional Services firms. SSI prides itself on providing seasoned and experienced professionals that deliver Supreme Solutions to its clients.

SUPREME SOLAR SOLUTIONS
Supreme Solar Solutions is a full-service solar developer with extensive experience building customized turnkey solar solutions. Their management team has diverse and vast experience in a variety of fields and industries including solar installations, financing, and contracting.

Happy Holidays from HIRE360

As we wrap up another wonderful year, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued support. Whether you're spending time with loved ones, reflecting on the past year, or looking forward to new adventures, we hope this holiday season brings you joy, peace, and happiness.

Thank you for being a part of our community, and we look forward to what the new year will bring. Wishing you all the best in this special season and beyond.

Warmest wishes,
HIRE360



HIRE360

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