

Industry Led. Community Focused.

APRIL 2025 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

Success Story

Lucas DePerry, a Native American (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), who resides in Chicago, recently graduated from the HIRE360 IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program as part of its third cohort on November 13, 2024. Throughout the program, Lucas demonstrated a strong work ethic, outstanding attendance, and a keen interest in multiple trades, including Sheet Metal Workers, Pipefitters, and Plumbers. He earned several industry-recognized certifications, including OSHA 10-Hour Construction, First Aid/CPR, Flaggers Certificate, Fall Protection Certificate, Scaffolding Hazard Awareness Certificate, and the



TradesFutures MC3 certification. These credentials have equipped him with the foundational skills necessary to pursue a career in the trades.

Like many aspiring tradespeople, Lucas faced the challenge of preparing for the aptitude test required for acceptance into registered apprenticeship programs. With over 50 hours of dedicated test prep provided by the IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program, he was able to strengthen his skills and successfully pass the exam for Plumbers Local 130. Additionally, guided tours of apprenticeship training centers and in-depth trade discussions helped him determine that plumbing was the right path for him. Now, Lucas is eagerly awaiting the next steps from Local 130 as he embarks on his journey toward a rewarding career in the plumbing industry.



Tradeswomen Advocacy Day Event

Ana Maria Montes de Oca Rojas, HIRE360 Director of Workforce Development, and Cattie Tanzillo, HIRE360 Training & Mentor Manager, joined hundreds of women at the second-annual <u>Tradeswomen Take Over Springfield</u>, where they met with legislators and championed key legislation to expand opportunities for women in the trades.

Myeisha Cook shared her inspiring journey, emphasizing how programs like <u>Climate Works</u> help women discover new career paths in construction. Her story is a powerful reminder that more women belong in the trades, and the time to act is now.

Roofers Local 11

This month has been an exciting time for our current <u>IL Works</u> Pre-apprenticeship program cohort. They had the opportunity to learn more about the Roofers Local 11 Apprenticeship program, including the requirements to apply. Candidates were able to explore the training center and gain valuable insights into the apprenticeship program. Thank you to <u>Chicago Roofers Local 11</u> for allowing us to tour their amazing facility.





Operating Engineers Local 150

Our current <u>IL Works</u> program cohort had the opportunity to tour the <u>Operating Engineers Local 150</u> Apprenticeship Training Center. Candidates learned more about the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship programs and the requirements to apply. Thank you to the Operating Engineers Local 150 for allowing our candidates to experience this training center.



Money Matters: Buying first home mentorship session

This month, our mentoring program continued the Money Matters financial literacy series with an insightful session on homeownership and real estate investment. We were honored to host Marttield Williams, a licensed real estate agent with over 20 years of experience at Marttield Properties, who led a powerful presentation on Buying Your First Home/Investment Property. Mentees gained valuable knowledge about transitioning from renting to homeownership and laying the foundation for a strong real estate portfolio.

HIRE360 Chicago remains dedicated to empowering our candidates to build lasting legacies, both in their careers and at home.

Current's Great Lakes ReNEW NSF Engine Initiative

HIRE360 is part of the growing effort to build the next generation of talent in the water sector. Through the ReNEW NSF Engine Initiative and in partnership with <u>Current Water</u>, we're helping expand access to training, apprenticeship opportunities, and long-term careers in this essential industry. The future of water starts with a strong, local workforce.

Read more here.



PSI Quantum Event

The recent <u>PSI Quantum</u> community meeting in South Chicago brought together residents, city officials, and industry representatives to discuss the proposed construction of new high-tech facilities. HIRE360's Industry Representative, Ryan Brown, attended to listen and engage with community members. These meetings are essential to ensuring that economic development reflects the needs and priorities of the community.

HIRE360 remains committed to supporting local hiring, expanding workforce opportunities, and creating pathways for Chicago residents to take part in emerging industries while staying engaged in the conversations that shape the future of our neighborhoods.

HIRE360 at the CTA Spring Pre-Apprenticeship Fair

On March 28th, HIRE360 proudly participated in the <u>CTA</u> Spring Pre-Apprenticeship Fair held at <u>South Suburban College</u>. This event brought together employers and organizations dedicated to providing job opportunities and resources to eager job seekers.

HIRE360 was joined by CTA Workforce Partners, representatives from various building trades, workforce agencies, and construction contractors. The event saw an impressive turnout, with approximately 150 individuals in attendance.



Throughout the day, HIRE360 staff engaged with numerous attendees interested in embarking on a career in the construction industry. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with aspiring professionals and provide them with the guidance and support they need to succeed.

Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Highlights



East Building Trades Graduation

Congratulations to the first graduates of our <u>Climate Works</u> Pre-Apprenticeship Program in Central Illinois, in partnership with the <u>East Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council</u>. Jaden Dandridge (Urbana), Nathan Gray (Danville), Traeton Woods (Urbana), and Johann Zimmerman (Savoy) completed 13 weeks of paid, hands-on training with certified union trainers and earned safety certifications. Held in Savoy, the graduation ceremony featured an inspiring keynote from <u>Urbana Mayor-Elect DeShawn Williams</u>, with <u>State Senator Paul Faraci</u> also in attendance. This milestone reflects the strength of collaboration and the real impact of creating direct pathways into the construction industry.

We're proud to share that Traeton recently applied to the <u>Sheet Metal Workers Local 218</u>, taking the first step toward a long-term career in the trades, and he's not alone. Several other participants have already been accepted into local unions, setting their own paths toward success.

Recruitment

Trade Openings!

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

Iron Workers Local 63:

 Architectural Iron Workers perform field fabrication & Installation of: window walls, glass & metal rails, curtain walls, storefronts, glass & metals, door hardware, stairs, scaffolds, chain link fences, faire escapes, flag poles, guard rails, canopies & playground equipment, skylights & vault doors and adjacent supports

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:

 Glaziers install 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, and glass in wood, metal or composite frames. They are certified in Shielded Metal Arc Welding.

Roofers Local 11. Roofing and Waterproofing:

 If you enjoy working outdoors and often at heights, consider becoming a roofer and waterproofer. They perform various jobs, including applying hot and cold built-up roofing, single-ply roofing systems, shingle, tile, and slate roofs, waterproofing foundations, plaza decks, and traffic coatings, lining ponds and tanks, and installing environmentally friendly green roofing systems.

Bricklayers:

Bricklayers create architectural works of art with stone and tile. Be prepared to
work hard, outdoors, and at heights regularly to succeed in this trade.
Applicants will be accepted throughout the year, 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 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 info@HIRE360Chicago.com.



IL Works Will County Pre-Apprenticeship Program!

Looking for a career in the trades to create a stronger future for yourself and your community? HIRE360's Illinois Works Will County paid nine-week Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program can help you get started! This program prepares you for a career in the building trades in Will County, offering industry-recognized credentials like CPR and OSHA 10, apprenticeship site tours, test prep classes, and stipends.

Sign up today for a virtual info session at this link!



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Spring Citywide Career Fair

Join us and the <u>Citywide Career Fair</u> collaborators <u>Chicago Transit Authority</u>, <u>Chicago Public Libraries</u>, <u>Civilians Office of Police Accountability</u>, <u>Skills for Chicagoland's Future</u>, <u>Chicago Women in Trades</u>, <u>City Colleges of Chicago</u> and <u>City Clerk</u> Anna M. Velencia's Office at the Spring Citywide Career Fair on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at <u>Olive-Harvey College</u> TDL Training Center. This event is your chance to meet top employers from across the city, explore job openings, attend workshops, network, and more!

The venue is easily accessible by CTA, so don't miss this opportunity to connect with employers and take the next step in your career!

Register now here.

Business Development

Benefit Chicago and Allies for Community Business Loan Program

HIRE360 partnered with <u>Benefit Chicago</u> - a collaboration among the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, and Calvert Impact Capital - and <u>Allies for Community Business</u> to launch a new loan program with \$4.5M in available funding to support contractors in Chicago's construction industry. This initiative provides access to capital, mentorship, and resources to help businesses scale, secure larger contracts, and create jobs. By combining financial support with expert guidance, we're strengthening Chicago's economy and empowering local contractors to build a sustainable future.

Read about this new program here.



MBDA Summit

Our Director of Business Development and Supply Chain, Deborah Whitaker, participated in the 3rd Annual MBDA Business Summit, joining Anna Solorio of Illinois Shines, Justin Clayborne, VP at Rock Creek Group, and Towanda Livingston, Director of Business Diversity at Constellation Energy, for a panel discussion on Accessing Capital & Contracting to Build Capacity. Moderated by Kathleen Thigpen, Chief Learning Officer at Thigpen Investments, the conversation provided valuable insights on expanding opportunities for businesses. We're proud to be part of these important discussions that drive economic growth and create meaningful opportunities for entrepreneurs.

JPMorgan Chase Webinar

At HIRE360, we're committed to building a skilled workforce for the clean energy transition. Our Executive Director, Jay Rowell, joined JPMorgan Chase's Energy Transition Workforce Development Webinar alongside industry leaders to discuss the impact of apprenticeships, public-private partnerships, and employer engagement in expanding career pathways. With support from JPMorgan Chase, labor unions, local government, and community partners, we're



ensuring more people have access to hands-on training and opportunities in the skilled trades.

Thank you, JPMorgan Chase, for championing workforce development and supporting our mission to create a more sustainable future!

Landmarks Illinois' 2025 Preservation Forward

It was an honor to support and attend Landmarks Illinois' 2025 Preservation Forward at the Old Post Office! Last year, we were honored with the Influence Award, and this year, we congratulate Chicago Women in Trades, Chris Enck, and Elizabeth & Ethan Finkelstein of Cheap Old Houses for their outstanding contributions to preservation.



A heartfelt thank you to Landmarks Illinois and this year's Landmarks Illinois Influencers for championing preservation and historic trades training. It was inspiring to connect with so many industry leaders and changemakers who continue to support this important work.

Safety Training Webinar

HIRE360 Business Development will host a series of webinars throughout the year aimed at helping to boost the knowledge and capabilities of its contractor clients. The first webinar in the series took place on March 31st and was titled "It's All About Safety Training" and it was presented by Adrian Mobley, President of <u>Air & Wellness Safety Training</u>. The webinar covered a variety of topics related to construction safety and was highlighted by real-world examples of why it is so important for construction contractors and those who work for them.

To learn more about upcoming webinars, contact Dave Thomas at (312) 575-2520 or dthomas@hire360chicago.com.



2025 Chicago Department of Procurement Services Construction Summit

HIRE360 Business Development and Supply Chain Manager, Dave Thomas and Industry Representative, Dexter Oliver, met with contractors and suppliers at the <u>City of Chicago</u>, <u>Department of Procurement Services</u>' 2025 Construction Summit on March 27th at the UIC Forum. The Summit was a unique opportunity for construction companies of all sizes to have face-to-face time with industry experts and enjoy an immersive agenda with interactive panel discussions, networking, and learning about exciting new construction projects.

HIRE360 Business Development looks forward to participating in the Summit each year. It's a great way to not only network with new contractors and purchasing organizations, but also to provide information about our loan pool, capacity building and technical assistance program and all the other services HIRE360 offer.



Contractor Mentoring

We had the privilege of hosting Rich Goodwin, Sr. Superintendent at <u>Related Midwest</u>, as a guest speaker for our mentoring session. His insights and experience in the field provided invaluable guidance to the class, helping them take the next step in their careers. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for a great session!

Youth Engagement



This summer, we will partner with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and its Career Tech Education's Construction & Architecture programs to provide unique Work-Based learning opportunities for Junior-level students.

We are seeking companies that can host between 1-3 students during these dates and times:

- June 25 August 3, 2025
- Mon.-Fri. (4 hrs. a day/20 hrs. a week)
- Office/Job Site local/Virtual

The intern(s) can participate in a rotational program working with your team in day-to-day project tasks, meetings, and some administrative work.

HIRE360 will supervise student selection, payroll, and any issues of attendance, scheduling conflicts and transportation assistance.

If you are interested and ready to support youth in construction, please contact HIRE360 to confirm your participation by Friday, April 25.

STUDENT DUTIES CAN INCLUDE:

- Study plant safety and suggest recommendations for improvement.
- Work on punch lists or other progress trackers.
- Weekly reflections on what they've learned about Construction
- Assist with managing vendors and follow-up on purchase orders.

These are a few suggestions for duties, but we want the students to be in a productive learning environment as well as be able to assist your company!



Youth Summer Engagement

HIRE360 is partnering with <u>Chicago Public Schools</u> to pay and provide junior-level students with work-based learning opportunities this summer as part of the Construction & Architecture programs. We're looking for companies to host 1–3 students at no cost from June 25 – August 3, 2025. Students will gain hands-on experience in project tasks, safety procedures, vendor management, and more.

Interested in shaping the next generation of skilled workers? Contact HIRE360 to confirm your participation.







CPS Skilled Trades Events

HIRE360, in partnership with <u>Chicago Public Schools (CPS)</u>, is expanding career pathways for students by providing hands-on learning experiences in the skilled trades. Recently, we hosted events at the <u>Plumbers Local 130 UA</u> and the <u>LIUNA</u> Laborers Training Center, where high school juniors and seniors engaged with industry professionals, participated in training demonstrations, and explored careers in unionized trades. Our Youth Engagement Manager, Rashaan Meador, moderated discussions, guiding students through insightful conversations about their futures in the trades. Special thanks to LIUNA, <u>Core & Main</u>, and Plumbers Local 130 UA for their support in making these events impactful.

The Skilled Trades Fair culminated at the <u>Mid-America Carpenters</u> Training Center with a "Building Chicago's Skyline" event, where students participated in hands-on demonstrations and heard from industry leaders, including panelists with decades of experience. A special visit from <u>Mayor Brandon Johnson</u> further encouraged students to pursue opportunities in the trades. In total, more than 1,100 students took part in these events. With the support of CPS, the <u>City of Chicago</u>, the <u>Department of Streets and Sanitation</u>, <u>Related Midwest</u>, and key industry partners, HIRE360 remains committed to shaping the next generation of skilled professionals and strengthening pathways into unionized construction careers.



Plumbers Group Graduation

Plumbing students in the Chicago Public Schools Bridge Program marked a major

milestone with their graduation ceremony at the <u>Plumbers 130 UA</u> Hall. As part of the program, they gained hands-on experience and had the opportunity to interview with potential contractors, bringing them one step closer to securing apprenticeships and launching their careers in the trades.

With placement tests approaching, many are preparing for the next phase of their journey. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and thrive in the skilled trades as they take the next step in their plumbing careers!





Exposing High School Counselors to the Great Careers in the Trades

Throughout March, we partnered with <u>Chicago Public Schools</u> and the <u>Chicago Department of Aviation</u> to introduce nearly 90 school counselors to the vast career opportunities available in the skilled trades. Through a series of apprenticeship school tours, counselors gained firsthand insight into the hands-on training that prepares students for careers in carpentry, bricklaying, painting, and construction labor.

The tours included visits to top training facilities, such as the <u>Mid-America Carpenters</u> Training Center in Elk Grove Village and the <u>LiUNA</u> Laborers Training Facility, where counselors explored state-of-the-art learning spaces and spoke with instructors about apprenticeship pathways and career preparation. By coordinating directly with apprenticeship programs, we also shared our services and scheduled follow-up school visits to engage students directly.

These experiences are designed to equip CPS counselors with the knowledge to guide students toward rewarding careers in the trades. We're excited to continue these efforts with our final round of visits in April!



Our Mission is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

CPS, HIRE360 to host recruiting events for students interested in the trades | Fox 32 Chicago

HIRE360 is making headlines! Good Day Chicago on FOX32 highlighted our ongoing skilled trades recruitment events with Chicago Public Schools, aimed at expanding career pathways for juniors and seniors. These events introduce students to high-quality, well-paying careers in construction and the skilled trades, providing hands-on



CPS, HIRE360 to host recruiting events for students interested in the trades

College isn't the path for everyone and you can make a great living by going into the trades. HIRE 36 is working with Chicago Public Schools to help more students take that path.

experiences, mentorship, and direct connections to apprenticeship opportunities. HIRE360 is committed to ensuring students have the resources and support they need to build a strong future in these industries.

Read more here.

IN THE NEWS

HIRE360 offers life-changing career paths for central Illinois through trades | WBUI-TV (Springfield, IL)

The HIRE360 <u>Climate Works</u> Pre-Apprenticeship Program is expanding opportunities in Central Illinois, with its first graduating class marking a key milestone in local workforce development.

Thanks to support from the <u>CEJA</u> <u>initiative</u>, the program is helping individuals gain hands-on experience and certifications that lead to careers in the unionized trades. As one student shared,

NEW TONIGHT

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM HELPING

STUDENTS IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

AMONY, III. (WICS) — With nearly \$5' million in funding from Goy, I.B. Prizsker's CEA Climate.

FOX

HIRE360 offers life-changing career paths for central

Illinois through trades

Now, its first class is set to graduate on Saturday, marking a major milestone in workfor

"Without this program, I probably don't know where I'd be right now."

Read the full story here.

IN THE NEWS

Hire360 Pre-Apprenticeship program has first ever graduation in Savoy | Yahoo

Big news from Central Illinois! This weekend, our <u>Climate Works</u> Pre-Apprenticeship Program, in partnership with the <u>East Central Illinois Building</u> <u>& Construction Trades Council</u>, celebrated its first graduating class, with students already accepted into trade unions.

Held in Savoy, the ceremony featured Urbana Mayor-Elect DeShawn Williams and honored graduates Isaiah Buckhanon, Jaden Dandridge, Nathan Gray, Treyton Woods, and Johann Zimmerman. Over 13 weeks, these students completed paid, hands-on training and earned safety certifications from union trainers, building real pathways into the trades.

Read the full story here.



IN THE NEWS

Building for the Future | Stanford Social Innovation Review

HIRE360 was recently featured in the Stanford Social Innovation Review for our work to expand access and opportunity in the



construction industry. The article highlights how our Chicago-based approach connects individuals and businesses to meaningful careers and contracts through collaboration with unions, contractors, and community organizations. By building strong networks and creating clear pathways into the trades, we're helping more people and companies thrive in this vital sector.

Read the full article here.

IN THE NEWS

Coach by day, tradesman by night: Meet the Urbana dad balancing it all while inspiring the next generation | WCIA

HIRE360 was recently featured on WCIA in a story spotlighting Treyton Woods, an Urbana dad and coach currently enrolled in our <u>Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program</u>. While managing the demands of family life and coaching, Treyton is also preparing for a career in the skilled trades, showcasing the kind of dedication and determination that fuels our mission. His story is a

powerful reflection of how programs like Climate Works are helping individuals take meaningful steps toward strong, stable careers.

Read the full story here.







JCB Construction Services LLC is a Chicago-based, Illinois-licensed company founded in 2021 by Julia Beal. Specializing in crack sealing and epoxy coating, JCB also offers pavement marking and asphalt seal coating. Julia, a skilled CDL Class "A" driver with multiple endorsements, was inspired to enter the construction industry through her connections and hands-on knowledge. As Operating Manager, she is one of the few women in the country offering these specialized services.

Core Competencies:

- · Pavement Marking
- Crack Filling
- Asphalt Seal Coating
- Epoxy

JCB joined HIRE360 to grow their business through capital access. networking, and new partnerships. Past collaborators include McShane Construction, Mark-It Express Logistics, and All Truck Transportation. The company is MBE, WBE, DBE, and Section 3 certified, with NAICS code 237310 and certifications in Epoxy and AK Pro.

To learn more about JCB Construction Services call them at (773) 343-3841 or jcbcoatseal.llc@gmail.com



National Able Network

We're proud to collaborate with National Able Network, Inc. (Able), a leading nonprofit that specializes in providing employment counseling, training, and placement services for iob seekers. Its mission is to advance workforce solutions and career pathways for a stronger future. Each client receives personalized career support that integrates career coaching, specialized training, and direct connections to the job market.

Able's programs are designed to assist job seekers from all backgrounds, including the unemployed, career changers, military veterans, seniors, and aspiring IT professionals. Each year, National Able Network serves more than 76,000 individuals throughout the Midwest, with 85 percent of clients enrolled in Able's programs gaining employment.

We are collaborating with the National Able Network to help clients learn the process of entering the Unionized Trades.

Learn more at www.nationalable.org

HIRE360

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