



Industry Led. Community Focused.

MAY 2025 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development



Success Story: Keith Williams

At 30 years old, Keith Williams was ready for more than just a steady paycheck. With experience in manufacturing, warehouse, and retail, he became interested in union construction for its structure and long-term benefits. After struggling to navigate the application process into trades programs, he connected with HIRE360 for guidance.

Through test prep, financial literacy training, and career coaching, Keith gained the tools he needed to succeed. He was recently accepted into the [Bricklayers Union](#) and is preparing to begin his apprenticeship. "They really care," he says. "They'll help you get what you're worth."

Success Story: Miguel Alquisira

Miguel Alquisira, 30, grew up working summers with his father and uncle as a drywall hanger/taper in Chicago's Hermosa neighborhood. Though he enrolled at the [University of Illinois at Chicago](#), Miguel quickly realized that traditional classroom learning wasn't the right fit. After nearly a decade working in construction, he connected with HIRE360, where he received trade certifications, test prep, and financial support.

Miguel graduated from the Illinois Works program and has secured apprenticeships with both the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#) and [Heat & Frost Insulators Local 17](#). Now living in Pilsen, he is focused on building long-term stability. "HIRE360 gave me the tools and confidence I needed to grow," he says.





National Historic Trades Summit

We were honored to host the National Historic Trades Summit, a two-day convening that brought together preservation leaders from across the country to shape the future of the historic trades workforce. The summit focused on building collaborative solutions and expanding the pipeline of skilled talent needed to protect and maintain our nation's historic landmarks.

From interactive sessions to strategy workshops, attendees engaged in thoughtful dialogue and shared action around workforce development, hands-on training, and sustaining time-honored skills. Special thanks to our partners [WRTP | BIG STEP](#), [Landmarks Illinois](#), [Pullman Tech Workshop](#), [Revolution Workshop](#), and many others for their commitment to preserving the past and training the next generation.



Health and Fitness Day for IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship Candidates

Health and wellness are essential for success in the trades. As part of our [Illinois Works](#)

Pre-Apprenticeship Program, candidates recently took part in "Nutrition Training for the Job" and "Staying Fit for the Job" classes, participants learned how to fuel their bodies, maintain energy on the job site, and prevent injury.

Special thanks to Citaly Moreno Chagoya, [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#) apprentice and HIRE360 mentee, for leading by example and inspiring the next generation alongside our team.

Workshops

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 to join our next session. We're here to support you in prepping for the next class and look forward to seeing you there!



Chicago Mentoring Program

HIRE360's Chicago Mentoring Program stepped out of the training center and onto the job site, thanks to the generous partnership of [Related Midwest](#). Mentees toured the 400 Lakeshore Drive project, one of Chicago's major high-rise developments, and connected with project managers and site supervisors who shared insights on planning, coordination, and real-time problem-solving.

The experience reinforced the importance of preparation, communication, and persistence in building a successful career in the trades. We are grateful to Related Midwest for investing in the next generation of leaders and providing a meaningful glimpse into their future careers.



Spring Citywide Career Fair 2025

HIRE360 joined more than 70 employers and organizations at the Spring Citywide Career Fair held at [Olive-Harvey College](#). With over 300 job seekers in attendance, the event provided a powerful platform to share employment opportunities and connect with individuals ready to take the next step in their careers.

We were proud to stand alongside partner organizations like the [CTA](#), [Chicago Women in Trades \(CWIT\)](#), and [Revolution Workshop](#). HIRE360 staff also had the honor of meeting [City Clerk Anna Valencia](#), who shared words of support and appreciation for our work. A special thanks to James James and Sean Wynn, two of our outstanding candidates, who joined us to help represent the HIRE360 community.

Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Highlights



Illinois Central College - Second Cohort Graduates

A major milestone in Central Illinois: [Illinois Central College](#) has graduated its second cohort of the [Climate Works](#) Pre-Apprenticeship Program. This time, ten individuals completed the program, each one ready to take the next step in their careers.

These graduates gained more than just hands-on training. Donald Noordhof and Leonard Peoples have been accepted into the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#) Apprenticeship Program, with Leonard preparing to work with the [Peoria Housing Authority](#). Keith Donley is set to begin his apprenticeship after completing 270 work hours with SLR Solar. Brian Duncan, who was also accepted into the Carpenters Union, is currently working with [SLR Solar](#).

This cohort reflects what Climate Works is all about: real training, real support, and real career outcomes. Congratulations to all!



Belvidere Pre-Apprenticeship Earth Day Cleanup

Students in our [Climate Works](#) Pre-Apprenticeship Program, delivered in partnership with [Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois](#), marked Earth Day with a community cleanup in Belvidere! This was part of day two of the program, which offers 190 hours of Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) instruction, hands-on experiences with [Habitat for Humanity](#), tours of local training centers, and work readiness training.

Offered in both Rockford and Belvidere, Climate Works prepares participants to launch careers in the clean energy and construction industries. After graduation, HIRE360 case managers work individually with students to help them take their next steps into apprenticeships or employment opportunities.

Recruitment

Trade Openings!

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

Iron Workers Local 1:

- This union is a mixed local that performs a variety of ironworking tasks. Their members are trained in several areas, including: structural steel erection - building frameworks for buildings and bridges; reinforcing steel placement - installing rebar and other reinforcements in concrete structures; bridgework - constructing and maintaining bridges; rigging - safely moving heavy equipment and materials; precast concrete structures - assembling pre-made concrete components; tower cranes - assembling and disassembling cranes used in construction. **Applications**

Iron Workers Local 63:

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

Glaziers:

- Glaziers are certified in shielded metal arc welding. Their work includes installing 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. Applications are open.

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.

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 is designed to help you succeed and achieve your goals.

With expert guidance, practice materials, and valuable tips, you'll be well-prepared to tackle the test with confidence. 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!



PAID Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training

Are you interested in joining HIRE360's Illinois Works **paid** 9-week pre-apprenticeship training program to prepare for a career in the Building Trades in Will County?

The HIRE360 Pre-Apprenticeship Program is partially funded by the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, which was established through Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion capital plan to promote equity in Illinois' construction workforce.

Program Offers

- Industry-recognized curriculum
- Credentials such as CPR & OSHA 10
- Apprenticeship Site Tours
- Test Preparation Classes
- Stipend

Eligibility Requirements

- Minimum age of 18 years old
- Illinois Resident
- High School Diploma/GED/HISET



Sign up TODAY!

Scan QR code to
register for a virtual
information session.



Exciting Opportunity with HIRE360!

Are you ready to take the next step in your career? Join HIRE360's [IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship program](#) starting May 2025! This 9-week hybrid program, held at our Training and Business Development Center, will run from May to July 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! Visit the [HIRE360 website](#) for more details and requirements. Seize this opportunity to advance your career with HIRE360!



Chicago Community Builders Collective (CCBC) at HIRE360

Bally's Chicago Casino and the Chicago Community Builders Collective (CCBC) hosted an informational outreach session at the our Training and Business Development Center to discuss opportunities on the upcoming Bally's Chicago Casino project. Contractors, workforce partners, and community stakeholders gathered to hear presentations from Miguel d'Escoto, Mike Casmer, Peter Tiwana, and Gerri Harris of CCBC, covering scopes of work including masonry, metal framing, roofing, drywall, and more.

Gerri Harris, Director of Economic Inclusion, emphasized that the only City of Chicago and Cook County MBE and WBE certifications will be accepted for the project. Firms certified through other agencies, such as CMSDC or WBDC, should contact HIRE360 for assistance with the expedited certification process. The session concluded with valuable networking opportunities, and more information is available at chicagocbc.com.



58th Annual Chicago Business Opportunity Forum

HIRE360 took part in the [Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council](#)'s 58th Annual Chicago Business Opportunity Forum, held at Convene in Willis Tower. The event brought together business owners and procurement leaders from across industries to build connections and explore new opportunities.

Deborah Whitaker and Dave Thomas represented our Business Development team, meeting with companies such as [Shinetoo Lighting USA](#). Workforce Industry Representative Ryan Brown also attended, connecting with professionals from [Burns & McDonnell](#), [United Airlines](#), and [Bally's Chicago Casino](#).

Photographed: Ryan Brown and Jose' Robles-Michelena, Executive Vice President of the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council.

Youth Engagement

After School Matters and HIRE360 Summer Program

This summer, HIRE360 is teaming up with [After School Matters](#) and [Related Affordable Foundation](#) to launch Next Builders: Intro to Construction Trades, a paid summer program for teens ages 16–18 who want to explore a future in construction.

Running from June 18 to August 1, 2025, participants will gain hands-on experience, earn industry certifications, and learn directly from professionals, all while getting paid. The program takes place at our Training and Business Development Center at 2540 S. State Street in Chicago, Monday through Friday, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Interested teens must attend an interview session on Tuesday, May 13, at Marshall Field Garden to meet instructors and learn more. The sessions run from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ready to build your future? Visit [this link](#) to reserve your interview date.



NEXT BUILDERS: INTRO TO CONSTRUCTION TRADES

TEENS! JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR A **PAID** PROGRAM!

Have you ever imagined what a career in construction could look like? Here's your chance to gain hands-on experience, learn from industry professionals, and earn valuable certifications in a **paid summer internship!**

START BUILDING YOUR FUTURE TODAY!

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
Teens 16-18

PROGRAM DATES
June 18 - August 1, 2025
Monday - Friday, 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

PROGRAM LOCATION
HIRE360
2540 S State Street
Chicago, IL 60616



SCAN THE QR CODE

INTERVIEW DATES
MEET THE INSTRUCTORS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM!

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW DATES:
TUESDAY, APRIL 8 | 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. (CIRCLE PARK)
TUESDAY, APRIL 29 | 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. (SOUTH SHORE)
TUESDAY, MAY 13 | 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. (MARSHALL FIELD GARDEN)

RESERVE YOUR INTERVIEW DATE HERE

AFTER SCHOOL **matters**



RELATED AFFORDABLE
FOUNDATION



City of Chicago Laborers Trainee Program

HIRE360 recently gathered with nearly 70 future trainees at City Hall for an energizing information session about the [City of Chicago](#) Laborers Trainee Program. Each candidate received a branded hard hat provided by [Laborers Local 1001](#), and learned about the paid summer opportunity ahead, including how to apply, what to expect during training, and the pathway to full-time employment with the City.

The Laborer's Trainee Program is a 10-week, paid summer experience for graduating

seniors interested in a hands-on career with the [Department of Streets and Sanitation](#). Participants receive two weeks of training at the [LIUNA](#) Chicagoland Laborers' Training Fund facility followed by on-the-job experience across various city divisions. They'll complete 120 hours of training, gain safety certifications, and develop employability skills, with the potential to bid for a full-time role by the end of the program.

With HIRE360's support, these students are preparing not just for summer jobs, but for lasting careers serving and strengthening Chicago.



Our Mission is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

Eliminating clean energy investments would be a waste | Chicago Sun-Times

We're proud to share [this thoughtful piece](#) by our board member, Pat Devaney, Secretary-Treasurer of [Illinois AFL-CIO](#), on the importance of clean energy investments, not just for the environment, but for the future of work in Illinois. His message reinforces why training programs like ours matter more than ever.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

OTHER VIEWS COMMENTARY

Eliminating clean energy investments would be a waste

Repealing or weakening these investments would slam the brakes on job growth, forcing workers to bear the brunt of political dysfunction in Washington.
By Pat Devaney | Apr 11, 2020, 6:00am CDT



IN THE NEWS

State Sen. Hastings Helps Secure \$465K For Pre-Apprenticeship Program | Patch

[This recent coverage](#) in Patch highlights new funding secured by State Senator Michael Hastings to support pre-apprenticeship training in Will County. The article features HIRE360 and the \$465,000 investment that will help more individuals take the first step toward meaningful careers in the trades.

It's another powerful example of how public investment can expand opportunity and strengthen the local workforce.



Politics & Government

State Sen. Hastings Helps Secures \$465K For Pre-Apprenticeship Program

HIRE360 - Will County, a non-profit that connects community members with opportunities in the trades, will receive the money.

Andrea Earnest, Patch Staff

FRANKFORT, IL — State Senator Michael E. Hastings secured \$465,000 to further expand the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program into Will County, according to a news release from his office.

IN THE NEWS

Governor awards more than \$19M through Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program | Illinois Business Journal

We're proud to be featured [in the Illinois Business Journal](#) as part of Governor JB Pritzker's latest announcement, awarding more than \$19 million through the [Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#). The funding will support nearly 2,000 individuals across the state.

Thanks to Governor Pritzker and DCEO for investing in a stronger, more prepared workforce for Illinois.



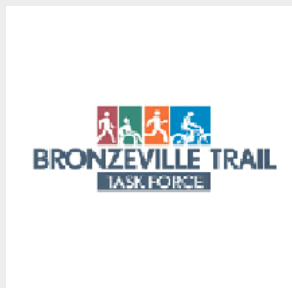
Governor awards more than \$19M through Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program

By Managing Editor | April 16, 2025 | 1



Includes \$550,000 for Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) have awarded more than \$19 million in funding to 38 program recipients serving 1,900 community members statewide to expand the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program. The program creates a qualified talent pipeline of diverse candidates in the construction and building trades.



Bronzeville Trail Task Force

HIRE360 is proud to support the [Bronzeville Trail Task Force \(BTTF\)](#), a community-led effort to transform the abandoned Kenwood 'L' Embankment into a 2-mile walking, jogging, and biking trail along 40th/41st Street.



Allen Prestwood Concrete Construction

[Allen Prestwood Concrete Construction](#) is a certified general contracting and concrete firm led by Antonio Allen, Executive Vice President, and Mansa Prestwood, President, with James

Formed in 2020, BTTF is driving health, connection, and economic growth in Bronzeville.

BTTF has been named the Community Partner for the Bronzeville State-Designated Cultural District and secured a \$900,000 Mellon Foundation grant to research the historic "Stockyard Line." They are also launching an Architect, Construction, and Engineer (A.C.E.) program to introduce local youth to careers in the built environment.

Through a new MOU, HIRE360 will help connect residents to union construction pathways and continue investing in Bronzeville's future.

Learn more about how we're supporting local communities and building the future at www.HIRE360Partners.com.

Harrell as Senior Vice President. The company is MBE- and DBE-certified and signatory with the Cement Masons, Laborers, and Carpenters unions, holding general contractor licenses in Chicago and nearby municipalities.

They connected with HIRE360 for support in accessing capital, expanding marketing efforts, and building industry relationships to grow their business.

Notable Clients & General Contractors

- American Airlines
- JAQ Architects
- Integrus Development Corporation
- State of Illinois
- City of Chicago
- River City Construction
- K.R. Miller Construction
- Friedler Construction
- FH Paschen.

Notable General Contracting Projects

- O'Hare Terminal Building and Concourses
- Chicago Riverfront Restaurants
- Burnham Restaurant Renovation

Performance, Safety & Quality

Allen Prestwood Concrete Construction self-performs a wide range of concrete services, including building foundations, slab-on-grade, curb and gutter, concrete paving, sidewalks, and concrete bases for streets and roads. The team is committed to delivering projects that meet the highest standards of safety, quality, and efficiency, on time and at competitive cost.

The company is located at 10530 S. Torrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60617. To learn more, visit allenprestwoodconcreteconstruction.com or call (312) 600-0334.

HIRE360

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