



Industry Led. Community Focused.

MARCH 2026 E-NEWSLETTER

Candidate Story: Montana Martin

Montana Martin of Calumet Park is celebrating her first month as an apprentice with the [International Union of Elevator Constructors](#) Local 2!

Montana spent more than six years with the U.S. Postal Service, and before that, she worked in shipping and packing for a variety of companies. But she wanted more for herself and her three daughters, which led her to HIRE360 and a career in the trades.

Growing up on Chicago's South Side, Montana's household was full of love, but she was deeply affected when her mother became incarcerated while she was still a young girl. It motivated her to provide more for her own children. After being trained in the [HIRE360 and ComEd Electrical Vehicle Charging Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#), she earned a spot with IUEC in 2025. Now a full apprentice, her career in the trades is well on its way. A big thanks to ComEd for their support, to IUEC for creating this opportunity, and to [Otis Elevator Company](#) for helping Montana with interview preparation!



Business Development



Community Development Series Part 2: Fueling Community Growth: Access to Loans & Technical Support

HIRE360's Business Development team hosted the second session of their three-part Community Development Series. This session focused on accessing capital, understanding underwriting, and preparing to finance major projects in the years ahead. The discussion touched on how lending decisions are made, what funding opportunities are available, and how borrowers can position themselves now to be finance-ready for future growth.

Thank you to moderator Jonathan Trey Scott, Director of Real Estate Development at [South Shore CDC](#), and panelists Adrienne Baker, Managing Director of Lending at the [Illinois Facilities Fund](#); Aloni Harris, Loan Officer at [C3 Impact Fund](#); Wendell Harris, Executive Vice President of Lending Operations at [Chicago Community Loan Fund](#); Brad McConnell, CEO at [Allies for Community Business](#); Christopher J. Park, VP and Senior Regional Strategist at [BMO's Zero Barriers to Business program](#); and Jessi Ventura, Director of Lending at the [Illinois Facilities Fund](#)! We are grateful for their leadership. A special thank you to Allies for Community Business, which provides so many of the working capital loans to our contractors.

MWRD Meet the Primes

HIRE360 also partnered with the [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District \(MWRD\)](#) to host a "Meet the Primes" virtual networking event, attended by approximately 60 businesses. With nearly \$700 million in contracts being bid this year, MWRD is committed to their M/WBE inclusion goals, and introducing subcontractors to the MWRD primes should increase business opportunities for the diverse subcontractors and suppliers we work with.



We want to thank MWRD, as well as the six prime contractors that participated in this event, including [F.H. Paschen](#), [IHC Construction](#), [Michels](#), [OHLA USA](#), [Walsh Construction](#), and [McDonagh Demolition](#).

Future events will feature a different set of primes. To learn more about the services of HIRE360's Business Development team, call us at [\(312\) 575-2520](tel:(312)575-2520) or email businessdevelopment@hire360chicago.com.

Workforce Development



Mentoring by Morgan Stanley

Our February mentorship event for candidates, presented in partnership with [Morgan Stanley](#), focused on financial growth. Certified Public Accountant Morgan Shaner shared practical insight on investing and managing income earned in the trades, with tools to start planning for what's ahead.

To learn more about mentoring opportunities, contact your Candidate Support Advisor or reach out directly to HIRE360 ([\(312\) 575-2500](tel:3125752500)) or info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

Commercial Driving: A Path to Steady Work

15 future CDL drivers took part in HIRE360's February Commercial Learner Permit (CLP) Test Prep course. Using materials provided by [Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulis](#), they studied the Illinois Commercial Driver's License Guide and reviewed key materials to prepare to earn their CLP, a credential that can open doors to careers in multiple industries, including union construction.

For example, Bryant Key, a [Laborer](#), received his CDL after participating in the program.

Our next test prep opportunity is in April, and it is open to citizens age 18 and older with clear driving records. If you're interested, attend one of our 11 a.m. virtual information sessions on March 19 or March 26. Register [here](#).

Classes run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. over six days, April 6–9 and 13–14.



Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Highlights

The **Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program** is opening doors to the future of clean energy in Illinois. Designed to recruit and prepare candidates from across the state, the program provides a pathway into unionized clean energy construction jobs—careers that offer stability, opportunity, and growth.

Interested in pursuing a career in the construction and building trades through the free Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program? [Learn more about careers in the clean-energy industry.](#)



Congratulations, Climate Works Graduates!

In February, [East Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades](#)' most recent cohort in Champaign completed the Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship program! (pictured)

Congratulations to all the graduates! They're leaving the program with certifications in First Aid/CPR, OSHA 10-Hour Construction, MC3 Pre-Apprenticeship Completion, and GPRO Fundamentals of Building Green. They now have tools that can help them secure apprenticeships with the trades and good-paying construction careers.

We also want to thank [Champaign Mayor Deborah Frank Feinen](#), city staff, and council members for attending the graduation ceremony.

If you or someone you know is interested in building a well-paid career supporting the clean energy technology of the future, visit [our website](#) to learn more.

Building a Workforce for the Future

The HIRE360 team is excited to be a part of [Chicago Clean Energy Workforce Week](#) in April. Jay Rowell, of HIRE360, and Chynna Hampton, of the [AFL-CIO](#) and [Climate Jobs Illinois](#), will be speaking on [April 8](#) during a day focused on how to help individuals transition into clean energy employment and how employers can upskill current employees. If you plan to attend, please come hear them speak.



Our Mission is to Expand Employment Opportunities

Opportunities at the United Center 1901 Project

Interested in learning more about our training programs or know someone who might be? Stop by our booth at the [United Center 1901](#) on April 2 at 10 a.m., where you can learn more about our program and exciting opportunities on the 1901 Project.

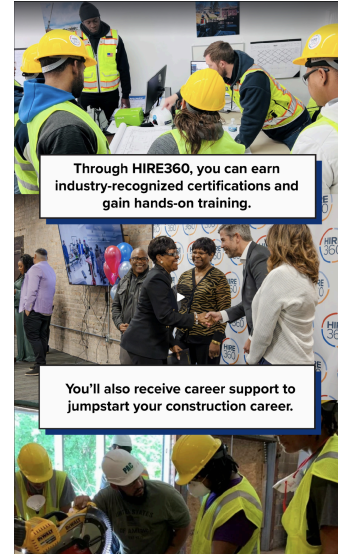
Coming Soon: Kane and Will County Illinois Works Programs

Illinois Works classes are starting soon in Kane and Will Counties! The program provides a stipend of up to \$11K while preparing you for union apprenticeships and opportunities tied to major construction projects across Illinois.

The curriculum includes construction math, work-based and job-site learning, and other skills training.

Complete the HIRE360 assessment form and sign up for an info session. Our next cohort starts soon — apply now:

- [Will County](#)
- [Kane County](#)
- [Cook County](#)



Current job openings

The following apprenticeship programs are **open now**:

- [Boilermaker Local 1 \(Oak Lawn\)](#) – Apply in-person every 3rd Thursday, 8–10 a.m.
- [Cement Masons Local 11 \(Woodstock\)](#) – Ongoing; signatory contractor required
- [Cement Masons Local 502 \(Bellwood\)](#) – Ongoing; signatory contractor required
- [Chicagoland Laborers District Council](#) – Ongoing; signatory contractor required
- [Chicagoland Roofers Local 11 \(La Grange\)](#) – Apply online or Mon–Fri, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.
- [District Council Training Center \(Addison\)](#) – Open now; Mon–Fri, 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
- [Finishing Trades Institute DC14 \(Berkeley\)](#) – Open; appointment required
- [IBEW Local 134 \(Alsip\)](#) – Apply in-person every Wednesday, 9–11 a.m.
- [IBEW Local 176 \(Joliet\)](#) – Apply in-person every Monday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- [IBEW Local 364 \(Rockford\)](#) – First Tuesday monthly, 8:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
- [Operating Engineers Local 150 \(Wilmington\)](#) – Apply online or Tue/Thu, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- [Iron Workers Locals 63 \(Westchester\), 444 \(Joliet\), 498 \(Rockford\)](#) – Online applications
- [Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 23 \(Rockford\)](#) – Accepting interest for 2027
- [Riggers & Machinery Movers Local 136 \(Broadview\)](#) – Apply online
- [Sheet Metal Workers Locals 219 \(Rockford\) & 265 \(Downers Grove\)](#) – Applications open online
- [Glaziers Union Local 27 \(Lyons\)](#) – Testing open; call for appointment

Upcoming Opening

[Illinois Teamsters Joint Council No. 25](#) is looking for a Construction Driver/Traffic Safety Worker Apprentice. They're accepting applications March 23–27 and March 30–April 3 from 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Need Support? We're Here for You

If you need help preparing for an apprenticeship test, updating your résumé, or requesting a recommendation letter, please contact your Candidate Support Advisor or HIRE360 at [\(312\) 575-2500](tel:(312)575-2500) or info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

Youth Engagement

Young People Learn About the Trades at CPS Skilled Trades Fairs

[Chicago Public Schools](#) is partnering with different union apprenticeship and training programs on four Skilled Trades Fairs in March and April, introducing students to building and construction early. HIRE360 is proud to help coordinate and support these events, which are moderated by Rashaan Meador, our Manager of Youth Engagement.

Working in concert with local unions, CPS is giving high school students hands-on experience with a variety of trades, including carpentry, construction, plumbing, and stationary engineers. The young people also get to participate in panel discussions, apprenticeship and internship sign-ups, and more.



In The News

FEATURED STORY: Cryptic Emails and No Strings Attached. How MacKenzie Scott Gives Away Billions

In 2023, HIRE360 received a surprise phone call — and a \$3 million donation we used to complete our training center. This gift is just a small example of how MacKenzie Scott, the billionaire philanthropist, is using her wealth to change lives. It was a small gift for her, but one of the biggest in HIRE360's history, allowing us to expand programming in Chicago and throughout Illinois. You can read more in the [Wall Street Journal](#).

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

MARKETS & FINANCE

Cryptic Emails and No Strings Attached. How MacKenzie Scott Gives Away Billions.

The injections of cash, which arrive without warning, have led to bolstered finances, scholarships, jobs—and sometimes even more money

By [Juliet Chung](#) [Follow](#)
March 7, 2024 at 8:00 pm ET

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MacKenzie Scott has given away more than \$26 billion to charitable causes in recent years. [DANNY MOLOSHOK/REUTERS](#)

It started with a cryptic email containing the word “confidential” in the subject line.

Illinois Pre-Apprenticeship program “Opening Doors” Into Local Union Construction Jobs | [Daily Herald](#)

This Chicago Nonprofit Isn't Just Training Workers but Rebuilding the Construction Pipeline | [Bluebeam Blog](#)

Business Spotlight

All Pro Glazing Systems

[All Pro Glazing Systems](#) is a dual signatory contractor with Glaziers Local 27 and Iron Workers Local 63, providing skilled union-trained workers for glazing and architectural metal installations. They are also Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certified with Chicago and Illinois.



The company is owned and operated by Adrian Clayborn, a former professional football player turned entrepreneur. As the owner of All Pro Glazing Systems, he is focused on delivering top-tier glazing solutions for commercial projects while creating opportunities for individuals who take pride in their work.

Located in Lombard, All Pro specializes in installing high-quality glass for commercial construction projects — built to spec, delivered on time and executed with precision. They have established themselves by working with top-notch general contractors, including Bulley & Andrews and Skender Construction on projects like the University of Chicago Medicine LaGrange Hospital, Northwestern Medical Oncology, and the Apple Store in Naperville.

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