



**Industry Led. Community Focused.**

**MAY 2026 E-NEWSLETTER**



## **Bally's Chicago Casino Project Reaches Topping Out Milestone**

The [Bally's Chicago Casino](#) project reached a major milestone with its topping out, marking the completion of the structure with a celebration honoring the contributions of the tradespeople driving the project forward—including carpenters, laborers, ironworkers, and electricians.

HIRE360 has been thrilled to play a part in the project alongside the [Chicago Community Builders Collective](#) and workforce partners, helping connect individuals and contractors to real job opportunities on site. Beyond referrals, HIRE360 has supported contractors like [New Horizon Steel](#), Tyro Construction, [Twenty Eleven Construction](#), and others by helping them grow their businesses through working capital loans to help grow their businesses while contributing to major projects like Bally's.

One of those individuals, Judah Israel, a third-year carpenter apprentice with [Carpenters Union Local 58](#) working with [McHugh Concrete Construction](#). After receiving support through the application process, financial assistance, and mentorship connections, Judah is continuing to build his career in the trades through this opportunity.

Projects like Bally's demonstrate what's possible when developers, contractors, unions, and workforce partners stay aligned. We're proud to celebrate this milestone and the opportunities it continues to create on site!

**Chicagoland Workforce**



## 400 Lake Shore Drive Tour Highlights Workforce Opportunities

When the community is at the center, everyone benefits. [Illinois House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch](#) recently toured [400 Lake Shore Drive \(LSD\)](#) with HIRE360, [Bowa Construction](#), and [Related Midwest](#).

HIRE360 is proud to have supported more than 60 individuals and contractors working on this residential building, including [Spurlock & Son Inc.](#) through our working capital pool and Nico Reaves, who transitioned from pre-apprenticeship training and [ComEd Take Charge programming](#) to becoming a Union Carpenter with [Diverzify](#).

The 80/20 mixed-income rental housing legislation passed in Springfield made this project possible, delivering more than 100 affordable housing units to Downtown Chicago. Thanks to the leadership of [LR Contracting](#), Related Midwest, and and Bowa Construction, the project is also creating meaningful career pathways for local workers.

Thank you to Speaker Welch, [Illinois State Senator Willie Preston](#), [State Representative Marcus C. Evans, Jr.](#), [State Representative Dr. Michael Crawford](#), the [Illinois State AFL-CIO](#), and all the leaders who helped make this project and these opportunities possible.



## Five Graduates Complete Bricklayers Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Congratulations to KaLeea Dickerson, Tadge Grant, Rolando Rivas, Salvador Viramontes, and Hugo Arellano for successfully completing the [Bricklayers Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) and stepping into their first roles in the trades. With support from HIRE360, each participant received workforce guidance and career navigation to help prepare for careers in union

construction. Thank you to the [District Council Training Center](#) for partnering with us to connect more candidates to opportunities and support them in their new careers in bricklaying.

## William Ng Joins IBEW Local 134

We're proud to highlight William Ng, who was recently accepted into [IBEW Local 134](#). A North Side resident, William came into the industry after working in a range of roles, including as a cook, physical therapy assistant, and handyman, where he first developed an interest in construction.



With support from HIRE360, including one-on-one career counseling and test preparation, William was accepted into the union on his first attempt. He is now beginning his apprenticeship with the tools and resources needed to succeed, including support to help cover initial union costs. A strong start as he steps into his electrician career!



## Labor Brothers United on What It Takes to Succeed in the Trades

HIRE360 was pleased to host [Labor Brothers United's](#) for a lively discussion with Illinois [State Representative La Shawn Ford](#) on what it takes to get into a trade union and grow in the field. Thank you to Labor Brothers United for all your help and support at getting into candidates into trade unions.

## Pepper Construction Connects with Illinois Works Cohort

We welcomed [Pepper Construction](#) to speak with participants in the [Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship program](#) cohort, offering a closer look at careers in construction. Scott Smith and Ivan Ramirez led an engaging discussion, sharing their career journeys, insights on the industry, and practical advice for those preparing to enter the trades. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, learn about Pepper Construction's work, and hear firsthand what it takes to succeed on the job. Thank you to Pepper Construction preparing our cohort for careers in the construction field.



## O'Hare ElevateT3 Workforce Event Connects Community to Trade Opportunities

Join HIRE360 on Monday, May 11, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Copernicus Center Annex in Chicago for a community workforce engagement event focused on upcoming opportunities at [O'Hare's ElevateT3 Project](#), part of the broader terminal modernization effort.

Hosted in partnership with [COT3](#), a joint venture of [Clark Construction](#) and [W.E. O'Neil](#), the event will bring together project partners, trade contractors, and local agencies to share insight into available roles and pathways into union construction careers. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the project scope, connect directly with employers, and explore next steps, including pre-apprenticeship training and union sponsorship.

Don't miss this opportunity and sign up [here!](#)



### COT3 Community Workforce Engagement Event O'Hare 21 ElevateT3 Project

COT3, a joint venture of Clark Construction and W.E. O'Neil, is reaching out to interested members of the community seeking trade opportunities to deliver the ElevateT3 Project at O'Hare International Airport's Terminal 3.

- Join us at this event to:
- Gain insight into the project scope, schedule, and upcoming opportunities
  - Network with the COT3 team, trade subcontractors, HIRE360, and local assist agencies
  - Learn about the enrollment process for:
    - Pre-apprenticeship training
    - Sponsorship into the local unions

**About the Project:**  
ElevateT3 will replace the aging terminal infrastructure with enhanced amenities, including increased capacity and passenger access, and greater operational and energy efficiencies. A reconfigured TSA checkpoint, new holdroom, ADA-compliant and family restrooms, and updates to the baggage handling system, will elevate the passenger experience at the airport.



Monday, May 11, 2026  
2PM - 5PM

Copernicus Center Annex  
5216 W. Lawrence Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60630

SCAN THE QR CODE NOW



or visit the [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM HERE](#)

For workforce inquiries, contact:  
Christopher Williams -  
[cwilliams@HIRE360chicago.com](mailto:cwilliams@HIRE360chicago.com)

For general project inquiries, contact:  
[projectcot3\\_inquiries@clarkconstruction.com](mailto:projectcot3_inquiries@clarkconstruction.com)



## Central and Southern Illinois Workforce

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.](#)

## Rrionna Places #7 in Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 23

Rrionna, a graduate of the Rockford [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) in partnership with [Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois](#), stayed focused on building a future



in the trades after completing the program. Following her participation in the Work Experience Program with the Rockford Housing Authority, she continued to show up each day, putting in the work and staying committed to her goals. Her efforts resulted in a #7 ranking in the [Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 23](#), securing her path as an HVAC technician. We're proud of Rrionna's achievement, a reflection of the preparation and persistence it takes to move forward in the trades.

## Marissa Steps into the Trades

Marissa, a graduate of the Belvidere [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) with [Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois](#), stayed committed to breaking into the trades, re-signing the books weekly with [IBEW Local 196](#) and checking the job board daily. After completing 180 hours of training, her consistency paid off. We're excited to see Marissa step into this role and begin building her experience on active job sites!



## HIRE360 Joins Clean Energy Workforce Week Panel

HIRE360 participated in Chicago's Clean Energy Workforce Week hosted by [The Carbon League](#) and the [Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance](#). Executive Director Jay Rowell joined a panel focused on building pathways into the energy workforce, alongside Equity Director Chynna Hampton of [Climate Jobs Illinois](#), Kelly Lapetino of the [DCEO Office of Employment and Training](#), and Jennifer Foil of the [Workforce Policy Lab](#).



The conversation explored how communities can build skills and how employers are successfully upskilling their workforce. Panelists also highlighted business incentives and opportunities to engage in workforce development initiatives, including programs like Apprenticeship Illinois. Thank you to our panelists for highlighting the importance of collaboration across industry, labor, and workforce partners to meet the growing demand in the clean energy sector.



## Decatur Cohort Prepares for Careers in the Trades

Graduates of the Decatur [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#), delivered in partnership with [Workforce Investment Solutions](#), are stepping forward into opportunities across the trades, following completion of hands-on training, classroom instruction, and exposure to all 16 trades in the region.

The milestone was recognized alongside local leaders and partners, including [Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe](#) and representatives from the [Decatur Building and Construction Trades Council](#). Graduate Lane Landers is already taking the next step, actively pursuing apprenticeship opportunities with interviews underway. Strong momentum as this cohort moves into the next phase of their careers!



## SWIC Climate Works Cohort Celebrates Graduation

Congratulations to the latest graduates of the [Southwestern Illinois College \(SWIC\) Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#), who recently completed training to prepare for careers in the union building trades and clean energy construction. Participants earned key certifications including OSHA, First Aid/CPR, MC3, and Fundamentals of Building Green, equipping them with the skills needed to take the next step into the industry. Partners, including [Illinois AFL-CIO](#), joined in recognizing the commitment and effort of this graduating class. We're excited to see these graduates take the next step into careers that support the growing demand for skilled workers across the construction and clean energy sector!



## Lewis and Clark Climate Works Graduates Reach Milestone

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship program](#) at [Lewis and Clark Community College](#) in Alton! Participants completed training in solar, HVAC, and construction, marking an important milestone as they take the next step toward careers in the trades and clean energy.

Thank you to Lewis and Clark Community College, the CEJA Workforce Hub team, instructors, and partners who supported this cohort throughout the program. We're excited to see these graduates continue building their careers!

## Business & Supply Chain



## CTA Red Line Extension Groundbreaking

The [Chicago Transit Authority \(CTA\)](#) marked a major milestone with the groundbreaking of the [Red Line Extension project](#) at 115th Street and Michigan Avenue. The project will extend the Red Line by 5.5 miles from 95th Street to 130th Street, with new elevated stations planned at 103rd, 111th, 116th, and 130th Streets. Once complete, the extension is expected to create more than 12,500 construction jobs while expanding access to downtown and connecting Far South Side residents to jobs, parks, restaurants, and other opportunities across the city.

The event brought together local and state leaders, including [Mayor Brandon Johnson](#), [Lieutenant Governor Julianna Stratton](#), [Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle](#), and Acting CTA President Nora Leerhsen, along with [Chicago Bulls](#) legend Scottie Pippen—an who is an investor in HIRE360 Business Development client [Structure Re-Right](#). HIRE360 was represented by Executive Director Jay Rowell, industry representative

Christopher Williams, and Manager of Business Development Dave Thomas. Thank you to CTA and project partners for creating opportunities that connect candidates to active job sites and long-term careers.

## HIRE360 at the Chicago Business Opportunity Forum

HIRE360 joined industry leaders at the 59th Annual Chicago Business Opportunity Forum, hosted by the [Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council](#) at Willis Tower, to connect with contractors and partners and support business growth across the region. The event brought together major corporations including [Bally's Chicago Casino](#), [Gilbane](#), [Peoples Gas](#), and [Turner Construction](#) with business leaders from across the region.

During the Sharing Success Awards Luncheon, HIRE360 Business Development clients were recognized for their leadership and impact, including Rey Rivera, CEO of [CSI3000](#), who was named Supplier of the Year – Class 3, and Jackie Dyess, CEO of [Inter City Supply](#), who received the Minority Business Advocate of the Year Award.



## Commissioner Anaya Visits HIRE360

[Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya](#) visited HIRE360 for a tour of our Training and Business Development Center, where she saw three candidates from her district currently enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship cohort. The visit created an opportunity to connect directly on how the County can support expanded opportunities for construction companies and workers. We're grateful for Commissioner Anaya's time and continued partnership in strengthening access to careers in the trades.



## Ezzy Manufacturing Hosts Business After Hours in South Holland

[Ezzy Manufacturing](#), a HIRE360 Business Development client and MBE-certified company based in South Holland, recently hosted a meet-and-greet as part of the [South Holland Business Association's](#) Business After Hours networking program. The event created space for connection and collaboration between local business owners and key members of local government across the south suburbs. HIRE360 Business Development and Supply Chain Manager Dave Thomas was invited to speak about our services and how we support companies like Ezzy Manufacturing in accessing bid

## Explore Opportunities at PBC's 2026 Connection Session

Join the [Public Building Commission of Chicago \(PBC\)](#) on Thursday, May 14 at [Malcolm X College](#) for the 2026 Connection Session, bringing together contractors, subcontractors, vendors, and assist agencies to explore upcoming project opportunities and industry resources. Attendees will gain insight into PBC's project pipeline, connect with industry partners, and learn more about initiatives like Student Hiring.

Sign up [here!](#)



**PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION OF CHICAGO**

# Connection Session 2026

Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Registration: 10:30am  
Session: 11:00am - 1:00pm

**Malcolm X College**  
1909 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612

Scan the QR code or Follow the link to Register: [tinyurl.com/PBCCS2026](https://tinyurl.com/PBCCS2026)

PBC is hosting its annual Connection Session on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Malcolm X College. The event will provide attendees with information regarding PBC's upcoming opportunities and encourage industry networking with architects, professional service providers, project agencies, and MBE/WBE firms, subcontractors, vendors and suppliers. PBC will also share information regarding its Student Hiring Initiative. Additional information will be made available regarding programming updates and registration, prior to the Connection Session.

For more information please contact: [hr@pbcc.org](mailto:hr@pbcc.org)

Connecting People  
Growing Businesses  
Building The Future

## Need Support? We're Here for You!

Keeping certifications up to date is key to staying competitive and accessing new opportunities. If your **W/MBE, DBE, BEP, SBI, EEC, or Section 3** certification is up for renewal, HIRE360 is here to help!

Reach out to our team for support with the recertification process and stay on track for future work.



**DONT LET YOUR CERTIFICATIONS DIE...  
RECERTIFY**

**HIRE 360**

Is it time to recertify your W/MBE, DBE, BEP, SBI, EEC, or Section 3? Let Hire360 Assist you. Please respond to this email if you need assistance.

## Youth Engagement



## CPS Skilled Trades Fair Wraps Series, Connecting Students to Construction Careers with LiUNA and Carpenters

Students recently explored careers in the trades through the [Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) Skilled Trades Fair series, which included four events held throughout March and April. April sessions were hosted at the [Laborers' International Union of North America \(LiUNA\)](#) Austin facility and the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Training Center](#), wrapping up the series. Across both events, students gained hands-on experience, learned more about union apprenticeship pathways, connected with industry professionals, and explored careers in the skilled trades.



The events also featured panel discussions with industry leaders and trade professionals. At the LiUNA Austin facility, the panel included three CPS graduates from the [City of Chicago Streets and Sanitation Department's](#) Trainee Program, in partnership with [Laborers Local 1001](#), along with Latasha Gamble, Business Agent for Local 1001 and organizer of the trainee program, which has helped place more than 130 students into full-time Streets and Sanitation roles over the past two years. Christian Searles of [Francis Construction](#) rounded out the discussion with insights on his experience managing field operations and helping scale projects across major construction sites.

Panelists at the Carpenter's Training Center included HIRE360 candidates Alberto Hernandez and Sheila Jones, Victor Ceron of the Carpenters Training Center, HIRE360 Industry Representative Ryan Brown, and Ethyl of [Air & Wellness](#), a woman-owned contractor business supported by HIRE360, during the final session of the series. Thank you to CPS, Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council, LiUNA, panelists, and partners for helping connect students to opportunities across the Illinois trades.

## In The News

### FEATURED STORY: Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program in the News

The [Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) was recently featured by [Yale Climate Connections](#), highlighting its role in expanding access to careers in the building trades and clean energy sector across Illinois. Chynna Hampton of [Climate Jobs Illinois](#) was featured speaking about the importance of removing barriers to participation and connecting graduates to real opportunities through partnerships with labor and industry. Programs like Climate Works continue to play a key role in preparing individuals for long-term careers while meeting the growing demand for skilled workers across the state.

Read more [here](#).



AUDIO

#### Illinois program expands access to clean energy careers

*The Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program offers paid training and support services to help residents enter the building trades.*



FILE PHOTO: Students build a solar panel array during a class on solar panel installation. (AP Photo/Mathew Sumner)



## Business Spotlight

### Campos Landscaping, LLC

[Campos Landscaping LLC](#) is a Chicago-based landscaping and property maintenance company located at 10107 S Hoxie Avenue, Chicago, IL. The company is owned and operated by Alejandro Campos, who has led the business since March 31, 2020.

Campos Landscaping is dedicated to delivering high-quality residential and commercial landscaping services that enhance the appearance, functionality, and value of outdoor spaces. The company is known for its reliability, attention to detail, and commitment to customer satisfaction.



Campos Landscaping is a second-generation business run by a family that is highly motivated to grow their business. They came to HIRE360 seeking assistance with access to capital, business certifications, creating a capability statement, and learning about the process of becoming a union business.

To learn more about Campos Landscaping, LLC, contact them at [\(312\) 622-1556](tel:3126221556) or [camposlandscaping85@gmail.com](mailto:camposlandscaping85@gmail.com).



**Our Mission is to Expand Employment Opportunities**

## Recruitment

### Apprenticeship Openings

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

#### Electrical

- [IBEW Local 134 \(Alsip\)](#)
- [IBEW Local 176 \(Joliet\)](#)
- [IBEW Local 701 \(Westchester \(Cook County\) - DuPage County\)](#)

#### Pipefitters

- [Pipefitters UA Local 597 \(Chicago - Cook County\)](#)
- [Sheet Metal Workers Locals 265 \(Downers Grove\)](#)

#### Iron and Structural

- [Iron Workers Locals 63 \(Chicagoland\), 444, and 498](#)

#### Concrete / Laborers

- [Cement Masons Local 502 \(Bellwood\)](#)
- [Chicagoland Laborers District Council](#)
- [Bricklayers District Council Training Center \(Addison - DuPage County\)](#)

#### Roofing / Finishing / Glass

- [Roofers Local 11 \(La Grange - Cook County\)](#)
- [Finishing Trades Institute DC14 \(Berkeley - Cook County\)](#)
- [Glaziers Union Local 27 \(Lyons\)](#)

## Heavy Equipment

- [Operating Engineers Local 150 \(Wilmington - Will County\)](#)
- Riggers, Machinery Movers, and Machinery Erectors
- [Riggers Local 136 \(Broadview - Cook County\)](#)
- 

## Need Support? We're Here for You

If you need help preparing for an apprenticeship test, updating your resume, 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](mailto:info@HIRE360Chicago.com).

## Virtual Job Club

Job club happens every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, candidates can register here for the next job club. [Click here to register for the next job club!](#)

If you have any questions or would like more information about future Job Club sessions, feel free to reach out to your recruiter or case manager directly. You can also contact us at [info@HIRE360Chicago.com](mailto:info@HIRE360Chicago.com) or call [\(312\) 575-2500](tel:(312)575-2500).

# HIRE360

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