



Industry Led. Community Focused.

MARCH 2025 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

Success Story: Lily Bailey

Lily Bailey, a single mother of two from Decatur, forged a new path through the HIRE360 Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program in partnership with [Workforce Investment Solutions](#). After overcoming cervical cancer and other challenges, she found a fresh start, earning OSHA 10, First Aid & CPR certifications, and a Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) certificate, a nationally recognized credential that prepares individuals for success in registered apprenticeship programs. Through the program, she also mastered green building practices, blueprint reading, and job site safety.



With guidance from her instructors, Richard and Alex, Lily pursued her dream of becoming a Low Voltage Electrician. She has already taken her apprenticeship exam and is eager to interview with [IBEW Local 146](#) in Decatur, where she hopes to build a stable future for her family.

Success Story: Citlaly Moreno Chagoya - From Mentee to Mentor

Citlaly Moreno Chagoya's journey from Guadalajara to a thriving career in construction is a testament to dedication and resilience. Originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, she pursued her GED in the U.S. and later became a U.S. citizen, embracing new opportunities along the way. After purchasing her first home, she developed an interest in construction and was inspired to join the [Mid-America Carpenters](#) Apprenticeship Program, where

she mastered trim work, working with various woods and power tools.

Through HIRE360, Citlaly gained critical industry certifications, including forklift training, and accessed financial support through our Barrier Reduction Fund. More importantly, she found a community and a mentorship program that helped her grow both professionally and personally. She began her journey as a mentee, honing her communication skills and confidence, and has since become a mentor herself, guiding and empowering the next generation of apprentices. Now a strong advocate for HIRE360, Citlaly believes in the power of mentorship and the opportunities the organization provides to help individuals build lasting careers in construction.



HIRE360 Leads Training for First IL Works Cohort of 2025

On February 24th, HIRE360 welcomed its first [IL Works](#) cohort of 2025 at our Training and Business Development Center. Over 25 candidates from the Chicagoland area began their journey in the HIRE360 IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship program.

The HIRE360 IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship program aims to assist individuals interested in the construction industry to become more industry-ready. The program offers several industry-recognized certifications, including OSHA 10 Hour Construction, First Aid/CPR, Flaggers certification, and more. This comprehensive curriculum, along with the certification offerings, is designed to pave the way for our candidates' future success in the construction industry, with a focus on helping them enter DOL Registered Union Apprenticeship programs.

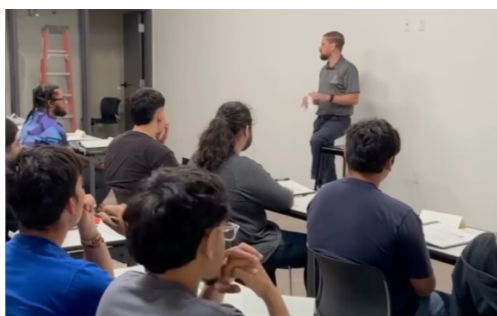


HIRE360 Chicago CLP Program

The HIRE360 Chicago CLP Program equips aspiring commercial drivers with the knowledge and confidence to pass the Illinois Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) test. Through structured class sessions, interactive group reviews, study aids, and daily quizzes, participants actively engage with the material beyond simply reading the Illinois Commercial Driver's License Study Guide. This hands-on approach allows HIRE360 Chicago to assess each participant's understanding, identify areas for improvement, and provide targeted support to ensure their success.

We appreciate the support of [Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias](#) in providing the books for our program.

Contact your case manager to sign up for the May cohort or to attend one of our upcoming informational sessions for our next virtual evening cohort starting March 24.



Welcoming the IL IBEW REF Classroom to HIRE360

We are excited to welcome the [IL IBEW Renewable Energy Fund \(REF\)](#) classroom to our Chicago Training and Business Development Center! Unveiled during our grand opening, this clean energy classroom will serve as a hub for training the next generation of workers in renewable energy and electrical construction.

The REF is a state-wide, grant-funded workforce development organization dedicated to expanding career pathways in the electrical construction industry, aligning with HIRE360's mission. In this classroom, the REF hosts their work with community-based organizations supporting women, displaced workers, justice involved individuals, and foster care alumni pursuing electrical apprenticeship opportunities with the [IBEW](#). Together, we are expanding access to recruitment, training, and placement assistance, ensuring that local youth, emerging talent, and

area residents have the tools to build long-term, successful careers.

[Check out the classroom here.](#)



CISCO Award

We're excited to share that HIRE360 has been awarded [CISCO's](#) Project of the Year, Strength Through Collaboration, for the renovation of our Training and Business Development Center! This recognition highlights the power of partnership and the collective effort that made this project a reality. The center serves as a critical resource for workforce training and business development, helping to create opportunities for individuals and businesses across the industry.

A huge thank you to CISCO for this honor and for bringing together such an inspiring group of awardees. We are incredibly grateful to all our partners who played a role in making this vision come to life. Thank you to our General Contractor partners, [Power, Pepper, LR, W.E. O'Neil, Lendlease](#), and [McHugh](#), for dedicating your time and expertise to recruit contractors and secure donations. We also extend our appreciation to our labor partners, including the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#), [Painters District Council 14](#), [Chicagoland Laborers' District Council Training and Apprenticeship Fund](#), and other trades, for generously donating labor to help build this center. Additionally, we want to recognize our Developer Partners, especially [Related Midwest](#), for their leadership in securing donations and managing construction.



A Huge Shoutout to Our Partners!

Once again, we want to extend a huge shoutout to [Habitat for Humanity, Power Construction](#), and Instructor Gerald Harper for providing HIRE360 candidates with an incredible opportunity to gain hands-on experience framing the interior of a home in 2025. Four of our candidates are absolutely loving the experience and making the most of this fantastic learning opportunity!

Reach out to your case manager to learn more about the next opportunity.



Mentorship Program: Understanding the Labor Movement

This month, our mentees gained valuable insight into their rights as union trades workers. Our session featured Marcus Shepherd, Director of Organizing for the [Chicago Federation of Labor](#), whose expertise provided clarity on key workplace rights and protections. His presentation equipped our mentees with the knowledge and confidence to navigate their careers, deepening their appreciation for the hard-fought victories of local skilled labor unions.

Don't miss our next mentorship session! For more information contact your HIRE360 Case Manager today or email us at info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Highlights



Illinois Central College Graduation

Congratulations to the nine graduates of [Illinois Central College's](#) Pre-Apprenticeship Program, a key part of our [Climate Works initiative](#). These dedicated individuals completed their training at the Workforce Sustainability Center, gaining the skills and knowledge needed to pursue careers in the skilled trades. Several graduates have already applied to the [Mid-America Carpenters Union](#), with their applications currently under review, marking an important step toward securing long-term, family-sustaining careers in the construction industry.

This achievement was made possible with the support of Paula Nachtreib, Executive Director of Workforce Development; Amy Dennison, Director of Workforce Operations; Lindsey Jenkins, Manager; and Tacuma Sadlow, Instructor. We're excited to see our graduates take the next steps in their careers!



Southwestern Illinois College Graduation

Congratulations to the nine candidates who earned their MC3, OSHA 10, and CPR/First Aid certifications at the [Southwestern Illinois College](#) Pre-Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony! Michael Conley, Director of Workforce Development and Career Pathways, opened the graduation ceremony with an inspiring speech, followed by a lead instructor who emphasized perseverance, goal-setting, and

resilience, highlighting how graduates showed up daily despite harsh weather.

This achievement was made possible with the support of Vicki Wilkins, Associate Director of Career Pathways, and Bill Reany, Workforce Development Program Director. We're excited to see these graduates take the next step in their careers and make an impact in the workforce!

Recruitment

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!

Exciting Opportunity with HIRE360!

Are you ready to take the next step in your career? HIRE360, in partnership with the Will County Government, will be hosting our new IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship program in Joliet, IL starting April 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! For more information visit the [HIRE360 website](#) for more details and requirements. Seize this opportunity to advance your career with HIRE360!

Apprenticeship Openings!

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

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.

Business Development



The Aspen Institute Ideas: Climate Change Press Conference Event

Big news! [The Aspen Institute](#)'s Aspen Ideas: Climate conference is coming to Chicago on July 21-22, 2025! HIRE360 was thrilled to host the official announcement of the conference! The Aspen Institute is a non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting environmental advocacy, networking, and idea creation by convening a group of thought leaders. Chicago will host the annual Aspen Ideas: Climate conference at The Salt Shed.

Margot Pritzker, Chair of the Aspen Institute Board of Trustees; Dan Porterfield, President & CEO of the Aspen Institute; and Jay Rowell, Executive Director of HIRE360, opened the event with remarks before introducing Governor J.B. Pritzker, who welcomed Aspen Ideas: Climate to the city.

The big announcement was followed by a panel discussion featuring Gil Quinones, President & CEO of [ComEd](#); Utopia Hill, CEO of [Reactivate](#); and Bria Scudder, Deputy Governor, with Tara Molina, Investigative Reporter for CBS News Chicago, serving as the moderator. The conversation explored key topics in climate and clean energy, highlighting the importance of collaboration in driving sustainable solutions. We appreciated President Quinones noting the great partnership we have with ComEd on our Take Charge Program, which helps prepare EV charging station workers and candidates for careers in green energy trades.

To learn more about the Aspen Ideas: Climate conference in Chicago, visit [Aspen Ideas: Climate](#).

WHSmith North America

HIRE360 is proud to partner with [WHSmith North America](#) to connect our

contractors with valuable insights on upcoming opportunities at O'Hare International Airport. By providing direct access to industry leaders and project details, we're ensuring that local businesses are well-positioned to compete and succeed.

WHSmith has been intentional about engaging the community and ensuring that local businesses are at the forefront of their proposal. This collaboration is a key step in creating more opportunities for community contractors and strengthening Chicago's business landscape.



CREATE Program

We recently had the privilege of partnering with [Union Pacific](#), a key [CREATE Program](#) partner, to bring valuable resources and opportunities to contractors in our community. CREATE is a critical initiative focused on improving freight and passenger rail infrastructure in the Chicago area, and Union Pacific played a direct role in making this event possible by working alongside us to ensure more contractors have access to major projects that drive economic growth and job creation.

This event reinforced our shared commitment to connecting local businesses with meaningful opportunities—providing them with the tools, relationships, and knowledge it needs to compete and succeed. By collaborating with Union Pacific, CREATE, and other partners, we are making strides toward a more accessible and competitive industry.

Youth Engagement



CPS Skilled Trades Event

Over the next month, 1,400 [Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to explore high-demand careers through a series of skilled trades recruitment events. This initiative reinforces our commitment to expanding postsecondary options beyond traditional four-year degrees and ensuring that Chicago's youth are aware of the rewarding opportunities available in the skilled trades.

We were thrilled to kick off this initiative at our Training and Business Development Center, where students learned about career pathways in renewable energy and solar jobs. These hands-on events, held in partnership with [CPS](#), [City of Chicago](#), labor unions, the [Chicago Teachers Union \(CTU\)](#), and construction partners like [Related Midwest](#) and [Power Construction](#), were further strengthened by the support of the [Illinois IBEW Renewable Energy Fund](#), [ComEd](#), and [Peoples Gas Delivery](#). Their commitment to workforce development is helping students with direct access to industry professionals and real-world career experiences.

In the coming weeks, additional events will introduce students to plumbing, carpentry, and city opportunities, giving them first-hand exposure to career paths that offer stability, strong wages, and long-term growth. By connecting students with employers, training programs, and apprenticeships, we are building a strong pipeline of talent that will shape the future of our city's workforce.



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

Citizen Newspaper Group
Powell Group Corporation Receives Support From HIRE360, by Tia Carol Jones

HIRE360 is proud to support Powell Group Corporation, a family-owned business. We're thrilled to see their story and success featured in the Citizen Newspaper. [Read more about them here.](#)

CITIZEN

Powell Group Corporation Receives Support From HIRE360



Powell Group Corporation received support from HIRE360 to grow and expand their business. It is benefiting POC clients in April. PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE STREETLY GROUP.

By Tia Carol Jones

The Powell Group Corporation is truly a family business in every sense of the word. Tyrone E. Powell, Jr., his wife, Marceda, their sons, Tyvon W. Benson, Tyrone E. Powell III and AJ Shambery IV, and nephew, Bakari Simmons, all work together. The Powells received the support necessary to grow their business from HIRE360.

Tyrone E. Powell, Jr., Founder and President began the company in 2019 as Powell Painting and Decorating, in honor of his grandfather, who owned a successful painting business for 50 years. Powell participated in a program for small business owners and entrepreneurs at Related Midwest where they met with Yanet Garcia and Mark Goeden. Marceda Powell said that Garcia and Goeden are the Powell Group Corporation's biggest champions.

HIRE360 helps Minority Owned and Women Owned Businesses (MWB) by providing capital, mentoring and resources so those businesses can expand recruitment and employment opportunities.

IN THE NEWS

Chicago Tribune
CPS skilled trades recruitment event sparks interest in career pathways for high school juniors, seniors, by Ikram Mohamed

As you may know, HIRE360 recently hosted a Skilled Trades Recruitment event, and we were thrilled to have the Chicago Tribune join us to interview our team. [Check out the article here.](#)

Chicago Tribune

NEWS • EDUCATION

CPS skilled trades recruitment event sparks interest in career pathways for high school juniors, seniors



Chicago Tribune reporter Ikram Mohamed, left, and HIRE360 representative Tyrone Powell, Jr. (right) at a Skilled Trades Recruitment event. Photo by Ikram Mohamed for the Chicago Tribune.

By Ikram Mohamed | [ikramm@chicagotribune.com](#) | Chicago Tribune
UPDATED February 21, 2023 at 4:20 PM CDT

About 400 Chicago Public Schools students gathered at HIRE360's center on the South Side Thursday to attend a skilled trades recruitment event, exposing them to postsecondary pathways other than traditional four-year colleges and universities.

As part of an ongoing collaborative effort with city agencies, City Colleges of Chicago and labor and corporate partners, the district has been working to connect students with trades career paths, allowing them to explore potential career opportunities following graduation.



Certified Property Solutions Inc., an MBE-certified business led by CEO Jimmie Williams, has been a trusted name in property preservation for over 13 years. Located at 10903-07 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL, the company provides a range of services, including board-ups, snow removal, landscaping, a, mold remediation, roof tarping, winterization, and janitorial services. Its reputation for quality and reliability has made it a preferred partner for Wells Fargo, Chase Bank, and Cook County.

As a licensed general contractor, Certified Property Solutions holds MBE certification through the City of Chicago and DBE certification through the CTA. It is fully bonded and insured. HIRE360 is currently supporting Mr. Williams with access to capital, corporate connections, and the MBE certification process through the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council (CMSDC).

To learn more, visit www.certifiedsolutionsinc.com.

Pullman Tech Workshop is redefining vocational education with hands-on training in trade skills, from handyman services to historic preservation. With small classes and dedicated instructors, students gain real-world expertise in a supportive, immersive environment that emphasizes safety, efficiency, and craftsmanship.

Rooted in the historic Pullman neighborhood, the workshop specializes in preservation trades, teaching woodworking techniques through restoration projects that honor Chicago's architectural heritage. For many, it's their first experience with power tools, offering a transformative introduction to the trades.

Now partnering with HIRE360, Pullman Tech Workshop is creating direct pathways to union trades and apprenticeships, blending historic preservation with modern trade skills to shape the future of skilled workers.

[Read their story here.](#)

HIRE360

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