

Please sit at a table that aligns with the group whose perspective you would like to take

1
Employer

2
Training
Provider

3
Employer

6
Training
Provider

5
Employer

4
Training
Provider

7
Employer

8
Training
Provider

9
Employer

10
Training
Provider



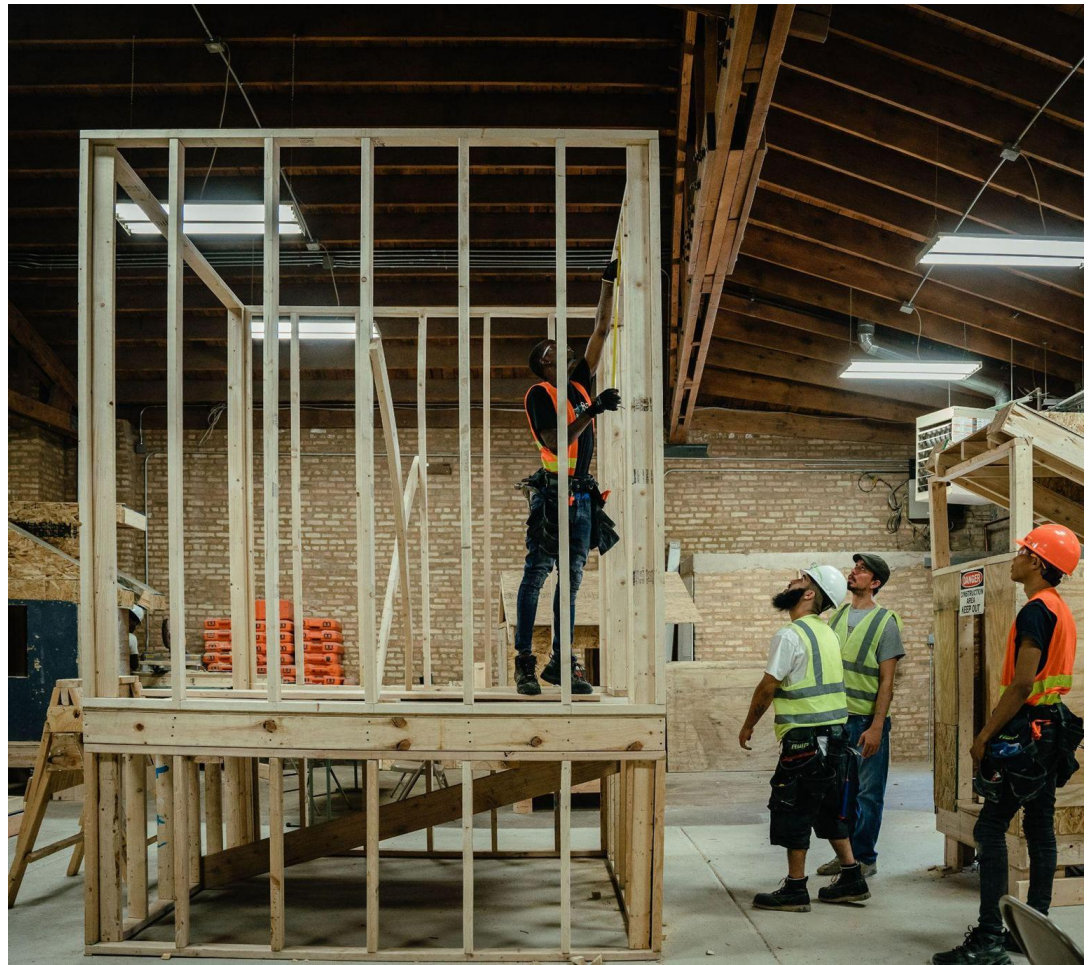
May the Workforce Be With You
Midwest Energy Solutions Conference 2026

Table Leads

- Shamar White – Revolution Workshop
- Fil Rios – Association House
- Keely Hughes – The JPI Group
- Jane Anderson – INOVA
- Brynn Cooksey – HVAC U
- Cy'iesa Lawson – SEEL
- Chynna Hampton – Climate Jobs Illinois
- Antuan Cannon – Wildan
- Bryan Haney – Erthe Energy Solutions
- Selena Worster Walder – Erthe Energy Solutions
- Erika Dominick – Walker-Miller
- Derrick Meeking – Walker-Miller
- Peter Wirtshafter – Assured Energy Solutions



- Founded in 2018, Chicago, IL
- Two-fold mission:
 - Help underrepresented communities obtain construction careers and build wealth
 - Help employers address the skilled trades gap
- Over 500 grads, 80% job placement rate





Workforce development requires authentic relationships with employer partners

Our Employer Engagement

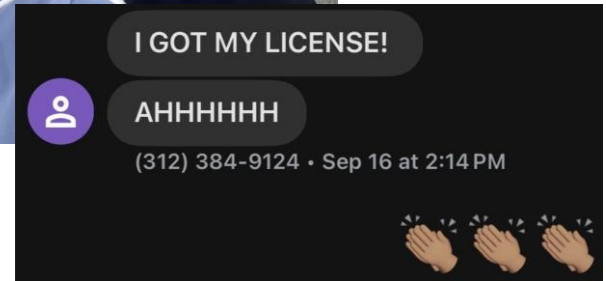
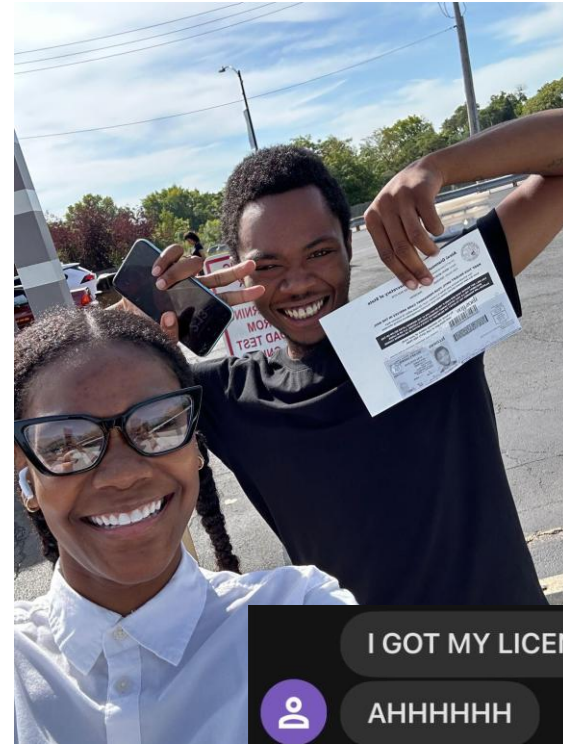
- Employer Advisory Council
- Hiring our trainees
- Post-Hire updates
- Volunteering for trainees
 - Teaching a class
 - Hosting a job shadow
 - Attending Mock Interviews
 - Partner on events
- Introductions to other key players
- Partner on advocacy work
- Financial or in-kind donations



Our "Tier 1" employers participate in all categories

Barriers to Employment: Transportation Example

- Accommodated first jobsite off public transportation
- Financial coaching w trainees
 - Credit score
 - Budgeting
- Social support for expenses
 - Assistance obtaining license
 - Car repairs
 - Insurance
- Advocacy: License to Work Act
- RW Car Loan Program
 - +Employer support



Today's Session

Discussion 1:

- Sit with your "similar group" - discuss top 5 barriers (15 min)
- Nominate two note takers that will then split

Discussion 2:

- Half of your table switches with half of another table
- Read each group's top 5 barriers
- Discuss solutions

Wrap-up (Whole Room)

- Facilitator summarizes trends across the room

Discussion 2: Half of Each Table Switches

