



Meeting Starts In: **10:00**



ILLINOIS WORKS





NCCER, TradesFutures, and ICCB Updates

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
12 PM – 1 PM
Hosted on Webex





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ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Team

- Dr. Norman Ruano, Deputy Director of Illinois Works
- Mr. Dan Martinez, Financial Grant Management
- Ms. Monica Pruitt, Grant Manager Analyst
- Mr. Edwin Sanchez, Grant Manager Analyst
- Ms. Sharhianna Fulce, Grant Manager Analyst
- Ms. Sue Ridings, Monitoring Grant Manager
- Dr. Jeff Doolittle, Program Coach and Instructional Designer
- Dr. Carleta Alston, Program Coach and Instructional Designer
- Ms. Olivia Meisenbach, Technical Writer
- Ms. Keneischia Jones, Program Coach and Instructional Designer
- Mrs. Shiva Jammula, Virtual Producer
- Dr. Gia Suggs, Professional Development Lead, Training Analyst, and Program Coach



Outline

1. Introductions
2. NCCER Updates
3. TradesFutures Updates
4. ICCB Updates
5. Session Evaluation



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ILLINOIS



- Ms. Kaylene Smith
- Senior Workforce Development Manager
- NCCER



Toolbox Tuesday

NCCER Solutions for a Stronger
Construction Workforce

Presented by:

Kaylene Smith

NCCER Senior Workforce Development Manager



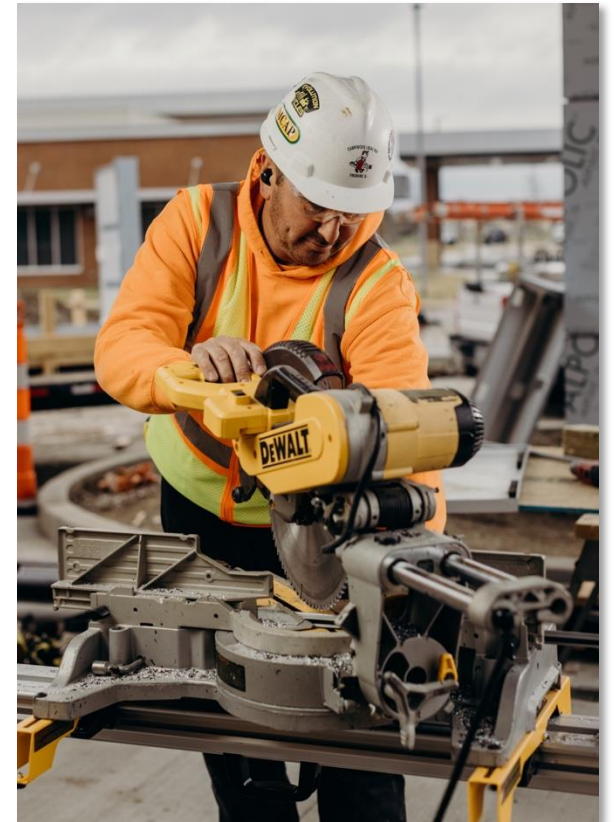
Our Mission & Vision

- Mission

Provide rigorous and relevant workforce development solutions that create opportunities for individual career advancement and support industry growth.

- Vision

A qualified and successful workforce of diverse individuals whose lives were improved through construction education.





Construction Employment Outlook

Over 1.5 million jobs
added in the past 10 years

500,000 craft jobs
needed to fill per year

61% of contractors experienced project
delays due to a shortage of craft
professionals

NCCER offers

A comprehensive Workforce Development solution that includes:

- Accreditation
- Instructor certification
- Standardized industry-driven curricula
- Nationally-recognized skill assessments
- Industry-recognized credentialing and certification
- Construction career/recruiting resources (Build Your Future & CareerStarter)
- Construction safety and front-line management education



Curricula

- Covers over **40** craft areas
- Utilizes industry subject matter experts
- Meets or exceeds industry standards and the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship requirements for registered training
- Competency based, modular format allows for flexibility



Industry-recognized credentials

NCCER's Registry

- Confidential, secure storage
- Documents training and skills attainment
- Provides portable, industry-recognized credentials
- Free, online, secure and user-friendly way to submit, review and manage:
 - Training and certification information
 - Performance Verification credentials



THANK YOU



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TRADES FUTURES



- **Jack Mackuse**
- Senior Program Manager
- TradesFutures





TRADESFUTURES

Illinois Works Toolbox Tuesday

TradesFutures Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) Updates

December 9, 2025

Agenda

1. Organizational / Program Update
2. Curriculum Overview
3. Recent and On-going Curriculum Updates
4. Planned Curriculum Updates
5. Train-the-Trainer Sessions
6. TradesFutures Contact Information

Organizational / Program Update

- **TradesFutures** is a 501c3 organization established by North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and other industry stakeholders
- TradesFutures administers the **Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3)** which was developed by NABTU's 14 affiliated Trade Unions
 - Designed for the Trades by the Trades
- **273** registered MC3 Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs) across the US serving approximately **7,000** participants per year
 - Our programs are designed to provide exposure to each of the construction trades, allowing the participant to select the best fit, and ultimately achieve success in the apprenticeship program of their choice

TRADES FUTURES

Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) Units/Hours Overview

Unit 1 – Orientation and Industry Awareness – 16 Hours (Required)

Construction Industry Overview – 8 HRs
The Building Trades & Apprenticeship – 8 HRs

Unit 2 – Tools and Materials – 8 Hours (Required)

Must include hand-on component

Unit 3 – Construction Health and Safety – 20 Hours (Required)

CPR/First Aid – 8 HRs
OSHA10 – 10 HRs
Women's Health & Safety – 2 HRs

Unit 4 – Blueprint Reading – 4, 8, or 16 Hours (Elective)

Unit 5 – Construction Math – 40 Hours (Required)

Unit 6 – Heritage of the American Worker – 8 Hours (Required)

Unit 7 – Diversity in the Construction Industry – 12 Hours (Required)

Diversity Awareness – 4 HRs
Sexual Harassment – 8 HRs

Unit 8 – Green Construction – 8 Hours (Required)

Unit 9 – Financial Literacy – 4 or 8 Hours (Elective)

Total Required Instructional Hours – 120

All school-based MC3 programs should refer to requirements in their local jurisdiction and add units/hours accordingly.

Recent and Ongoing Curriculum Updates

- **Green Construction (Unit 8)** is now required for all MC3 programs
 - Partnership with Urban Green Council to offer certifications in Fundamentals of Green Construction and Getting Started in Green Construction
 - Curriculum was updated in January 2025
- **Financial Literacy (Unit 9)** was updated in Spring 2025, now five lessons:
 - Savings and Investment
 - Credit and Debt
 - Protecting your Finances
 - Preparing for Retirement
 - Budgeting
- We are conducting **content review** to ensure curriculum accuracy and relevancy, address functionality issues, and add new resources and activities for instructors

Future Curriculum Updates

- **Developing optional 2-hour module** focusing on the intersection between AI and the construction industry
 - Discuss the relationship and impact of AI and trades work
 - Share basic AI skills needed for trades work
 - How AI drives the construction industry
 - Generative AI
- **Converting asynchronous unit assessments** from open-ended to multiple-choice
 - Efficient grading
 - Easier to save progress and resume assessments
 - Bypasses spelling errors
- **MC3+ Math-Focused Resources**
 - Partnership with SkillPlan

Train-the-Trainer Sessions

- Introduces new MC3 instructors to the curriculum and Learning Management System
 - Two 3.5-hour classes
- Upcoming Sessions
 - **December 3-4**
 - **December 17-18**
- We are finalizing the 2026 schedule and will be posted to our website

Thank you & Contact Information

- Please reach out to program@tradesfutures.org for any inquiries concerning the MC3 or Apprenticeship Readiness Programs
- We now have dedicated resource pages for both prospective and registered MC3 programs.
- <https://tradesfutures.org/about/apprenticeship-readiness-program/>



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- **Ms. Whitney Thompson**
- Deputy Director for Workforce Education
- ICCB





ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OVERVIEW | IL WORKS PARTNER

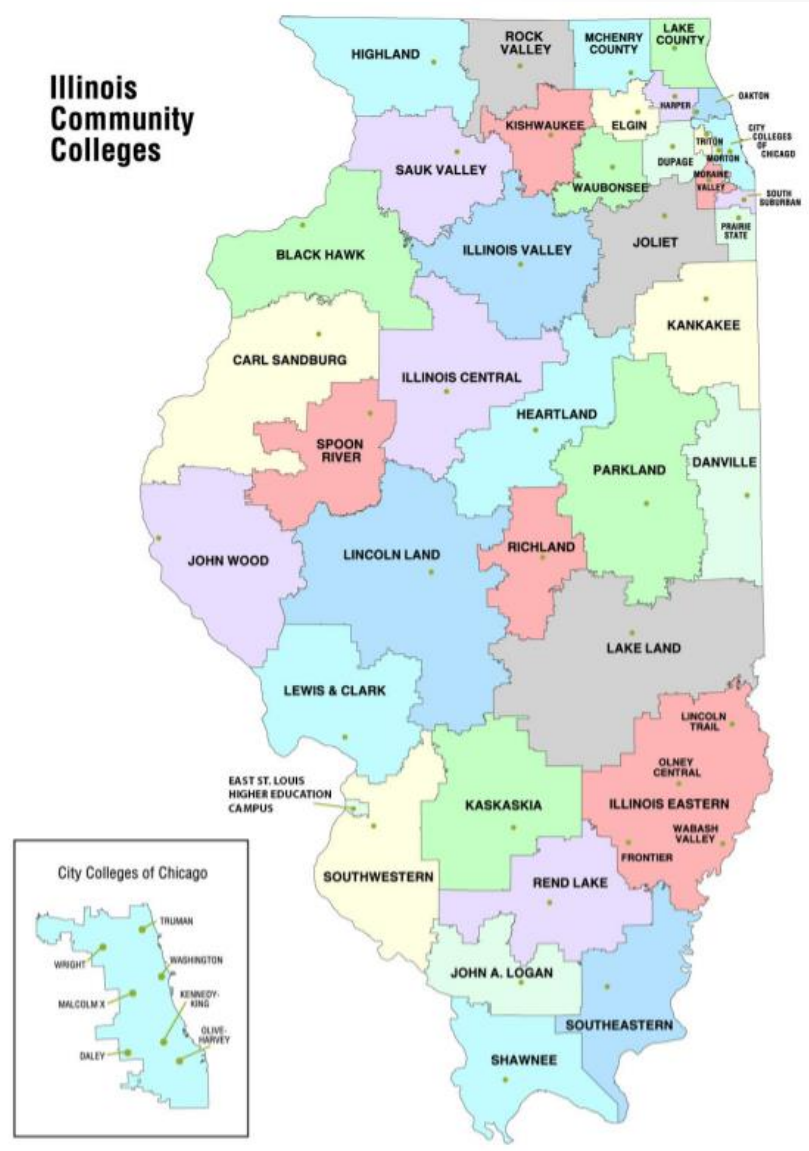
Whitney Thompson, Deputy Director for Workforce
Education, December 9, 2025



ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

The Illinois Community College System is the **largest** workforce training provider in the state.

- 45 colleges; 39 districts
- All community colleges provide credit and noncredit training opportunities and are eligible training providers for Title I WIOA programs.



STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- The Illinois General Assembly established the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) in 1965 to create a statewide system of public community colleges accessible to every resident.
- The ICCB is the state agency responsible for coordinating and supporting Illinois' 45 community colleges. The Board provides leadership in policy development, system planning, funding, and accountability to ensure equitable access and opportunity for all students.
- The board is composed of eleven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms. In addition, one student member, selected annually by the ICCB Student Advisory Committee, serves a one-year term. The Board Chair is appointed by the Governor.
- Authority established through [Public Community College Act](#) (110 ILCS 805).
 - System planning and coordination; student-level data collection; set standards and evaluate community colleges through statewide recognition; approval and review programs; administer the state's adult education program

PROGRAM APPROVAL

- All credit-bearing programs must be approved by the ICCB (e.g. all Baccalaureate/Transfer programs, GECC Certificates, all Career & Tech Ed (CTE) programs)
- All courses for which the CC seeks state funding (aka credit hour reimbursement / apportionment)
 - New Courses attached to an Existing Program: submit w/in 30 days of offering or anytime into the future
 - Course Modifications/ Withdrawals / Reuses: Submit w/in 30 days of offering or anytime into the future; Submit through ICCIS
- Questions? Contact Dr. Tricia Broughton, Director for Academic Affairs
- Program approval: <https://www.iccb.org/program-course-approval/>

1. Career and Technical Education (credit, certificate, and degree offerings)

- Illinois community colleges offer credit programs in all 16 career clusters (in-demand sectors)
- There are 4,251 approved CTE programs serving over *Examples:* Nursing, Welding, Cosmetology, CNC Machining, Information Technology, Early Childhood Education

2. Non-Credit Workforce Training

- Over 110,000 unduplicated enrollments
- *Examples:* Truck Driver Training, Welding, Real Estate, Small Business Development/ Entrepreneurship, Renewable Energy programs

Workforce
Offerings

3. Corporate Training Contracts (customized training for companies and their employees)

- Examples: industry-specific training, safety certifications, computer and IT upskilling

4. Apprenticeship Programming

- 80% of all community colleges offer related technical instruction through apprenticeship programs in partnership with businesses or labor unions
- 53% offer pre-apprenticeship programs
- Community colleges can serve as a sponsor for the U.S. DOL Registered Apprenticeship programs (25%)
- There are 241 unique apprenticeship programs offered by or provided in partnership with community colleges, with 194 registered with the U.S. Department of Labor . 219 programs are credit-bearing, while 15 are offered through noncredit.
- Although there is significant variety, the majority of programs are in manufacturing, healthcare, and information technology.

Workforce Offerings

5. Adult Education: Free public programming that educates adults to become literate and to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.

- 70 funded and approved adult education providers (local regional offices of education, corrections, community-based organizations, community colleges, high school districts, faith-based institutions, and four-year institutions) across 600 locations.
- All providers are required to offer a bridge and integrated education and training program.
- Core partner of WIOA and the local American Job Centers.
- <https://yourpathyourfuture.org/>

Workforce
Offerings

ICCB- IBHE MOU ON ADULT EDUCATION BRIDGES AND IETs

Adult Education Bridge Programs

- The ICCB has sole oversight over adult education bridge programs operated by ICCB-funded adult education programs. IBHE has no oversight over adult education bridge programs, so programs should not submit these for approval, review, or registration to IBHE.
- ICCB-funded adult education providers offering bridge programs should advertise bridge programs appropriately and as defined in Attachment H. Specifically, bridge programs should not be advertised that they culminate in a workforce credential.

Integrated Education and Training Programs

- For PBVS providers offering an IET as a part of their adult education grant program, ICCB has oversight over the adult education and literacy components of the IET.
- For PBVS providers offering an IET as a part of their adult education grant program, IBHE has oversight over the workforce training component of the IET. Program approval is detailed in Section 1095.60 and 1095.80 of the Administrative Rules, and program changes must be approved by the IBHE.
- Prior to receiving approval from ICCB to offer the IET, PBVS providers must have the workforce training component approved by IBHE. Once the workforce training component is approved by IBHE, the PBVS provider must complete all required ICCB approvals for the IET.
- When a PBVS provider is approved by ICCB to offer an IET, IBHE will not require of that PBVS a New Program of Study application or correlating fee to be submitted for the IET version of the program.
- Please direct all questions to Senior Director for Adult Education, Kathy Olesen-Tracey (Kathy.olesen-tracey@illinois.gov).

QUESTIONS?

Whitney Thompson, Deputy Director for Workforce Education

Whitney.Thompson@illinois.gov

For Adult Education:

Kathy Olesen-Tracey, Senior Director for Adult Education

Kathy.olesen-tracey@illinois.gov

For Program Approval:

Tricia Broughton, Director for Academic Affairs

Tricia.broughton@illinois.gov

Questions?





Feedback Please!
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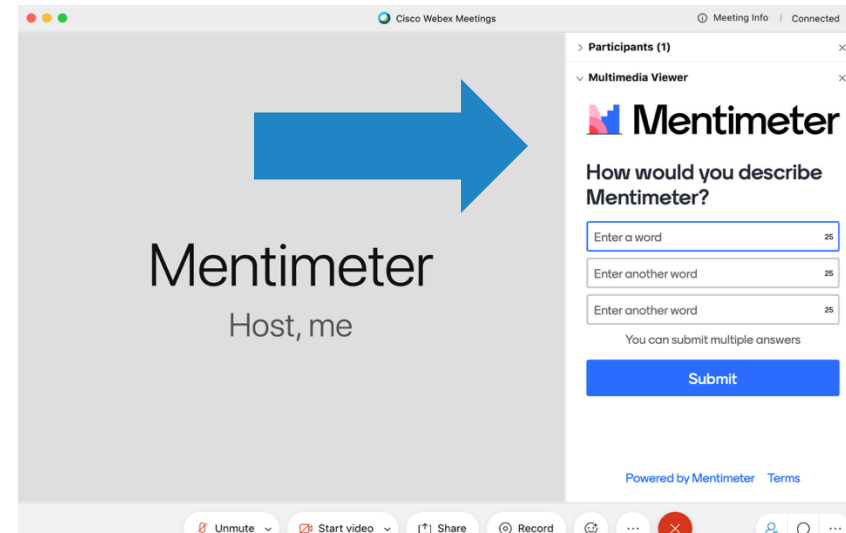

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to have you as part of our
provider network!**



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JB Pritzker, Governor