



May 2026 BCP Newsletter

Taylor Dobson - HIRE 360 ILWPP Graduate Highlight

Taylor Dobson is a Joliet native who previously worked in customer service roles, most recently as a Shift Leader at Jersey Mike's. During her time at Joliet Central High School, Taylor developed a key interest in woodworking, ultimately leading her to become very interested in a career in construction. Taylor graduated from HIRE360's second [Illinois Works Will County Pre-apprenticeship Program](#) cohort in October of 2025, where she gained her First Aid/CPR, MC3 and OSHA 10 Certifications.



Taylor has since been accepted to Carpenters Local 174 via sponsorship from Power Circle Construction. She started her apprenticeship in February 2026. Taylor says she would highly recommend HIRE360 Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program for help with learning skills hands-on, safety training, and help with union test preparation. Her biggest accomplishment is being accepted into Carpenter's Local 174, as it has been a goal of hers for years!

Taylor is now a Qualified Apprentice and is Bid Credit eligible. All hours she works for her employer are eligible to be submitted to us to earn Bid Credits! If you are interested in finding a Qualified Apprentice that has graduated from an Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program you can either submit a Job Order Request or Graduate List Request below, and someone from Illinois Works Career Services will assist you.

[Job Order Request](#)

[Graduate List Request](#)



Congratulations to **Henson Robinson Company** for being awarded \$9,320.85 in Bid Credits during the month of May!

Need Help Navigating the IL Works Bid Credit Program?

We're Here to Help!



Join our Technical Assistance (TA) open office hours, held **EVERY Thursday from 10am-11am**. No RSVP is required!! Drop in anytime between 10am - 11am for individualized, one-on-one assistance with technological tools or just general questions about IL Works Bid Credit Program. We can even help get you registered with the Bid Credit Program, complete an Apprenticeship Report (to request bid credits), or direct you to ILW Career Services so you can find your next Qualified Apprentice.

Join the Webex link below:

[https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?
MTID=m91f9558125f6f6179e96d9c10a962208](https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m91f9558125f6f6179e96d9c10a962208)

You can also email us directly at CEO.BidCreditProgram@illinois.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

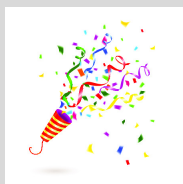
We are excited to continue our themed TA sessions into the month of June. See the schedule below for a session that looks beneficial for you to learn more!

Date	TA Session Title	TA Session Goal
May 28, 2026	What is an Apprenticeship Report?	Educate contractors on how to fill out the Apprenticeship Report which is how to request Bid Credits.
June 4, 2026	What is the Office of Illinois Works?	Educate contractors and other stakeholders about the Office of Illinois Works and its functions.
June 11, 2026	What is the Illinois Works Bid Credit Program?	Educate contractors about the Illinois Works Bid Credit Program (BCP) and help them register with the BCP.

June 18, 2026	What is a Qualified Apprentice?	Connect contractors with a representative from Illinois Works Career Services to help locate a Qualified Apprentice.
June 25, 2026	What is an Apprentice Report?	Educate contractors on how to fill out the Apprentice Report which is how to request Bid Credits.

Reminder, no RSVP is needed. Simply join the Webex meeting during any of the dates above from 10 am to 11 am if you want to learn more!

Join Webex



Congratulations to **Laverdiere Construction, Inc.** for being awarded \$12,705.21 in Bid Credits during the month of May!

IDOT's Today's Challenge Tomorrow's Reward 2026

March 31, 2026 (pre-event)
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

April 1 & 2, 2026 (2-day conference)
The Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL



(Pictured above: Sarah Graham, Career Services; Abe & Mary Lincoln; Rosalia Boccardi, Bid Credit Program)



(Pictured above: Brenna Tierney, Apprenticeship Initiative; Kathryn MacDonna, Bid Credit Program)

The whole Illinois Works Team attended IDOT's 35th annual Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward conference at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL. The pre-event and two-day conference was sponsored by IDOT's Office of Business & Workforce Diversity, which provides support for businesses to partner with IDOT on various state projects through their [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program](#).

Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative Information Webinar



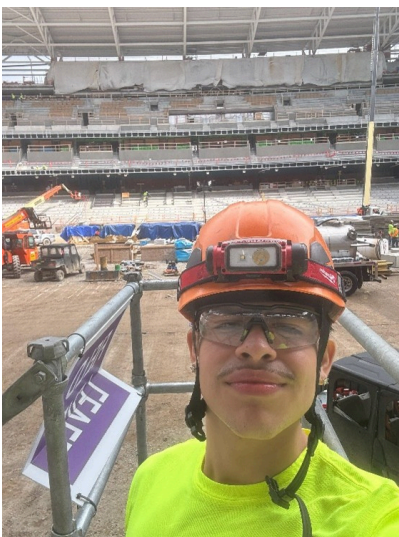
A monthly information webinar on the Apprenticeship Initiative Overview for Contractors/Grantees/Loan Recipients and consulting engineers will be delivered on June 10, 2026 from 10 am to 12 pm. Here is a direct link to the registration:

[Register Here!](#)

You can also visit the Apprenticeship Initiative's website to learn more about the Compliance requirements for State projects \$500K+:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/illinoisworks/apprenticeship.html>

Efren Herrera – Lewis University ILWPP Graduate Highlight



Efren Herrera, a 23-year-old graduate of [Lewis University's Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program](#), is now officially on his path in the skilled trades as a Terrazzo apprentice with Local 21 Bricklayers.

Before entering construction, Efren spent over seven years working at Walmart, where he quickly moved into a management role at just 18 years old. Despite his early success, he wasn't sure what long-term career path he wanted to pursue.

That changed when a friend recommended the Illinois Works program. "That was one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life."

Efren entered the program with an open mind, looking for opportunity—and found far more than he expected. Over the course of approximately four and a half months, he gained hands-on experience, earned multiple certifications, and built a strong foundation for a career in construction.

“From the very first day, I saw how many options there were. It was eye-opening. It felt like a light at the end of the tunnel—like, this is a real career.” One of the biggest impacts for Efren was the preparation the program provided—not just technically, but mentally. He improved skills like math, learned what to expect from union application processes, and gained confidence heading into interviews, aptitude tests, and physical evaluations.

With guidance and support from the program, Efren applied to multiple unions and successfully advanced through the process. Today, he is officially a Terrazzo apprentice with Local 21 Bricklayers.

How Can You Start Earning Bid Credits?

FIRST, in order for you to earn Bid Credits, your employee/apprentice **MUST** be a **Qualified Apprentice**. What exactly is a Qualified Apprentice? A Qualified Apprentice is an employee who meets **ALL** of the following criteria:

- has graduated from an **Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program**
- is actively enrolled in a USDOL-Registered Apprenticeship Program in the construction trades
- is 6 years or less from the date enrolled in the USDOL- Registered Apprenticeship Program

If you have hired a **Qualified Apprentice**, here is an example of how much you **could** earn in a year (Using the highest and lowest paid trades according to IDOL):

Trade Title	Mean Prevailing Wage Effective 1/30/2026	Bid Credit Earnings for 1 Year (2,080 hours)	Bid Credit Earnings for 6 Years (12,480 hours)
Electric Power Lineman	\$65.47	\$68,088.80	\$408,532.80
Painter Over 30 Ft.	\$34.61	\$35,994.40	\$215,966.40

(Bid Credits can be calculated by taking the hours your Qualified Apprentice worked X the mean prevailing wage for the trade worked X \$0.50)

Find out how much your trade can earn!

[Click Here!](#)

Newsletter Highlight & ILWPP Graduate Success Stories

We love graduate success stories! We also would love a chance to feature your company/organization/graduate in our newsletter!

Do you have an ILWPP graduate/apprentice that you would like to recognize for their remarkable achievement or for overcoming a significant challenge?

If so, please submit the following [form](#) and someone from the BCP team will be in touch with you.

[BCP Newsletter Highlight Form](#)

May 2026 New Contractor Shoutout!

- Franto Environmental, Inc.
- TGX Contractors LLC



Bid Credit Launch Q&A

Click on each box for the answer!

[How Much Can I Earn?](#)

[Is My Apprentice Bid Credit Eligible?](#)

[Bid Credit Submission Tips?](#)

Illinois Works In the News

- [Illinois Ranks #1 for Workforce Development in Midwest, Climbs to #3 in the Nation](#)
- [Illinois pre-apprenticeship programs boost tradesworker diversity](#)
- [Illinois leads Midwest in workforce development](#)
- [HIRE360 To Celebrate First Graduating Class Of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program In Will County](#)



Upcoming Bid Credit Program Events

Federation of Women Contractor's
(FWC) [Annual Awards Reception:
WomenRock 2026](#)
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hispanic American Construction
Industry Association (HACIA) [June
Membership Meeting](#)
Wednesday, June 17, 2026
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Upcoming Bid Credit Program Webinars

Advantages of the Bid Credit Program Webinar

This **UPDATED** informational webinar will provide updates from the administrative rules that have been approved.

Effectively Earning Bid Credits Webinar

This **NEW** webinar will provide instructions on how to use our Bid Credit platform and how to earn Bid Credits.

Please check our [website](#) for upcoming dates and times for both webinars! Keep an eye out for another email from us with webinar dates and times, as well as registration links!

Timeline to Launch

Are you prepared now that the BCP has launched? Please follow the steps below to ensure your company is ready:

1. [Register](#) for your own BCP Account Number
2. Bookmark the [BCP Webpage](#)
3. [Request](#) an ILWPP graduate
4. Review the [Contractor Registry](#) for networking opportunities
5. Begin requesting Bid Credits for a qualified apprentice using the [Bid Credit Apprentice Report](#)



Learn more about the Bid Credit Program

[Illinois Works Bid Credit Program](#)

[Illinois Works Graduate Request](#)

[Contractor Registration Form](#)

Bid Credit Apprentice Report

Bid Credit Certificate Request



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