




BUILD YOUR STORY HERE


Success Stories



"Finding gas leaks is a thorough process. Patience is required to investigate the leak and fix the problem. We always take the time to complete the job correctly."
— Aaron Sanders
Gas Apprentice, Day 4

WORK
What Others Rarely Know

For more details on the industry and to learn more about the job at Ameren, visit the [Essential Page on Twitter](#)





Man 1: Blue zip-up hoodie, jeans, brown shoes.

Man 2: Dark grey and blue zip-up hoodie, sunglasses, blue jeans, grey sneakers.

Man 3: Green and black Nike hoodie with yellow swoosh, blue jeans, black sneakers.

Man 4: Grey long-sleeved t-shirt with "2015 WARKINS CLASSIC HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT" graphic, blue jeans, white sneakers.

Man 5: Black hoodie with green logo, blue jeans, black and red sneakers.

Orange traffic cone

Orange traffic cone

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Black Hawk College Fall 2020 Graduates



Black Hawk College Fall 2020 Graduates

HCCTP PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORIES:

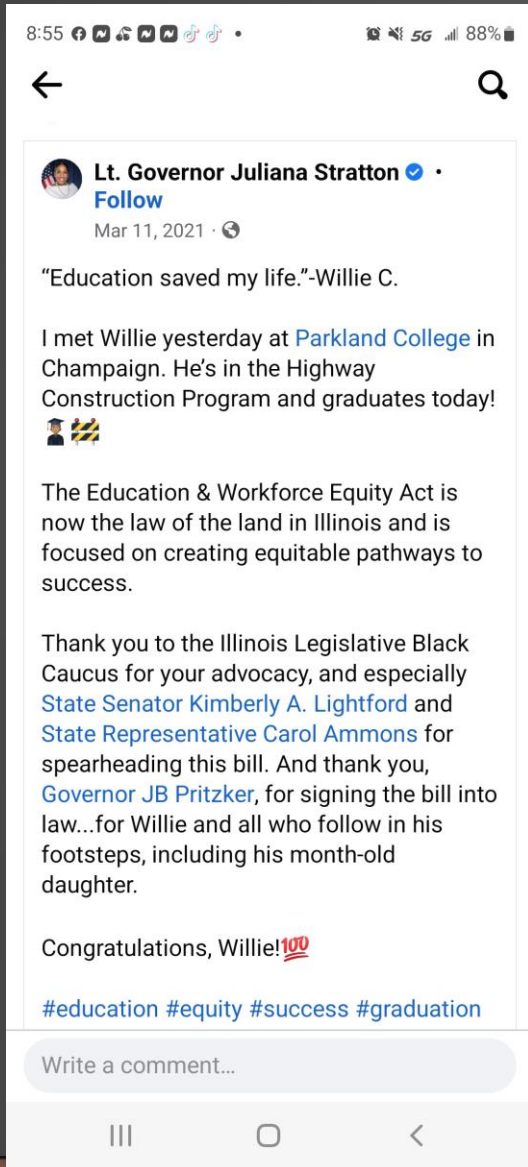
Tyreese Harris – 2nd year apprentice – Sheet Metal Workers Local 219

- Two weeks after he graduated from HCCTP with a 98% attendance rate, Sheet Metal Workers Local 219 offered Ty a spot, along with one of his peers from Class 19. He started in the field on 7/02/21 and just completed his first year of apprenticeship. He spoke to my most recent class on 5/05/22, telling his story about how his future has taken a turn for the better thanks to HCCTP and a career in the trades. He hopes to purchase a home in the next couple of years.



LIFT TRAINING





A Facebook post By Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton:

Success Stories:

**Education
saved my life.
–Willie C**

I met Willie yesterday at Parkland college in Champaign. He is in the Highway Construction Program. He graduates today! - Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton











Lisa Harding completed the October 2014 HCCTP. Lisa's worked in sales, supporting three sons, and was looking for a change in her career. Lisa was very interested in the construction trades and decided that she would apply for the Operating Engineers. Lisa applied and was accepted into the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Program. She completed her apprenticeship and is now a journeyman operator. Lisa comes back to the HCCTP program and does presentations to the class to encourage individuals to consider the construction trades.



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•Jennifer Nelson completed the HCCTP in February 2016. She always enjoyed outside work and has done some minor home repairs. Jennifer was very interested in learning carpentry skills. Her experience was doing handyman kind of jobs and working in a flower shop. Jennifer applied for the Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters and was accepted into their apprenticeship program. Jennifer enjoys this type of career!









Jonathan Tamayo – 2nd year apprentice – Laborers Local 32

He is originally from Mexico and immigrated to the U.S. at a young age, graduating from Rochelle High School. When he applied to RVC's HCCTP, he had been working in Rochelle at a truck wash. Overworked and underpaid; he knew there had to be more for himself and his family.

Jonathan applied to the Laborers Local 32 in May 2021 and placed into his apprenticeship in June 2021. He then went and passed his citizenship test in August 2021, is now able to vote, and has been meeting other goals ever since. Jonathan spoke to and shared his story with my most recent class on 3/31/22. He has finished his first year of apprenticeship and currently working long hours to obtain his journeyman card as soon as possible.

Jonathan took part in HCCTP Class 19 at RVC



CLASS 6 GRADUATES



SUCCESS STORIES

- Danielle Sunley completed the January 2018 HCCTP Class at LLCC in Springfield. Danielle's father works as a sheet metal worker. Danielle has always liked working with her hands. Prior to the HCTTP, her working experience consisted of the food industry and Family Video. Danielle applied for the Springfield Plumbers and Steamfitter's Apprenticeship program and was accepted. Danielle continues to attend the Apprenticeship program, presentations at the Building Trades Career Day, and is enjoying her new career.





















Worker in plaid shirt holding a shovel.

Worker in grey hoodie and white cap kneeling.

Worker in brown jacket and blue cap kneeling, leveling concrete.

Jackson wheelbarrow.











Hi-Tom this is Bieesha Harper.

I am contacting you to say how grateful I am to have went through the Highway Career Training Program at Lincoln Land.

It's one of the most influential things I have done for myself.

I worked hard in the classroom and workshop to learn everything possible and always had the goal in the back of my head to earn a CDL scholarship.

When you called me and signed me up for the CDL class I was ecstatic.

I cried with happiness and sadness because I accomplished my goal but I couldn't share it with the person I loved most.

I became a little depressed after finishing class so decided to transition back home to Chicago in August. I reapplied for IDOT Highway Maintainer and got it.

I absolutely love driving the snowplow and helping clean up the highway. I received a temporary position but applied for permanent and Emergency Highway Patrol.

Please pray for me and my safety to continue.

I just wanted to say thank you, to you and Mr. Robinson for the CDL opportunity and training.

I am forever grateful.



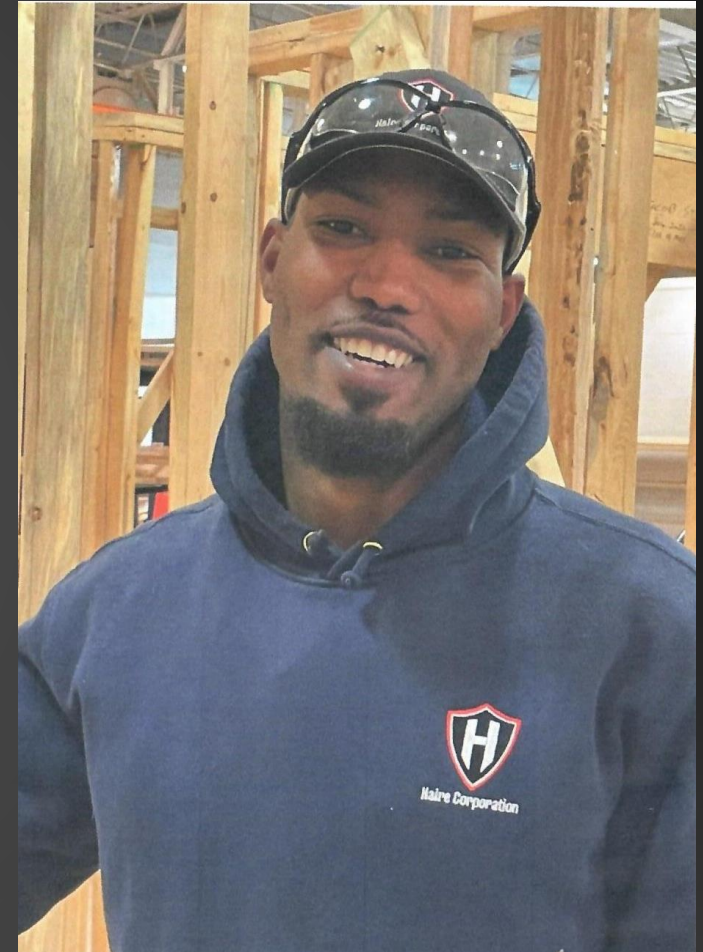
Graduate in the Millwright's returns to talk to New Students

Success Stories

This opportunity has changed my entire outlook on life—thinking back on my past, I realize one BAD decision impacted my life in such a negative way, while one GOOD decision impacted my life in such a positive way—wow what a difference!

I would advise anyone to be patient—it takes time to achieve your goals. Have confidence in yourself because if you don't believe in yourself, who will? If you have an interest in construction and want to learn, The Highway Construction Careers Training Program is a great place to begin your career! The program has strict admittance and attendance policies, but they will get you ready for life in the construction industry.

I know it has changed my life forever. – Dante Haire



**I am now the proud President/Owner and lead carpenter of a union construction company,
The Haire Corporation!**



Barn Built at Rock Island County Fair Grounds

Success Stories:



- Kimarcus Tucker completed the January 2019 HCCTP Program. Kimarcus was always interested in the construction as he would watch his grandfather do handyman work. Kimarcus's experience has been cooking in the fast-food industry. Kimarcus was ready for a change in his career. Kimarcus applied for the Glaziers apprenticeship program and was accepted. Kimarcus enjoys this type of career and is currently working as an apprentice for the Glaziers International Union Painters and Allied Trades Local #90.



PREPARATION FOR
CEMENT SLAB AT
ILLINIWEK FOREST
PRESERVE







Graduating Class Spring 2022 Southwestern Illinois College



Success Stories

“Just having HCCTP on my résumé gave me an advantage, as the hall and local companies know the quality of workers they will get from this program,” she said.

Johnson recommends other women consider careers in construction.

“We deserve the same income stability of men,” she said. “It’s hard work, sure, hard work that has built my character and made me a stronger person inside and out.”

Jessica Johnson is a construction wireman at Tri-City Electric and on track to become an apprentice electrician in May 2021.

Success Stories

“My whole life I never thought I would have a retirement,” she said.

Shepard was always interested in construction, but she didn't learn about HCCTP until her 40s. Someone gave her the phone number for the program. She called and never looked back. Shepard liked how HCCTP covered a little bit of everything, and she really enjoyed working on a roof during the program. The hands-on experiences and learning about various trades helped Shepard decide on carpentry, which she knows is the right fit for her. She regularly returns to HCCTP classes to share her story with students.

“I want everybody to find their niche,” Shepard said. “We need women in construction.”



Sonia Shepard is a journeyman carpenter for Carpenters Local 4 and works for the contractor Kraemer North America. Her first construction project after HCCTP graduation was helping build the new bridge in Savanna.

LONG VIEW PARK PROJECT



Success Stories



James was introduced to construction by his step-father while they were remodeling their home. James enjoys working outside and has had some general labor experience in the Champaign/Bloomington area. James had an interest with the Operating Engineers or the Electrical Trade. James applied for the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship program local #965 and was accepted. James is currently completing his apprenticeship and is moving into his journeyman status. To show his appreciation for the program, after he graduated, he comes back to visit and give presentations to current classes and promotes the union trades to upcoming apprentices.

James Love attended the November 2016 HCCTP Program at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.



K
KRAEMER
NORTH
AMERICA

Success Stories

HCCTP filled my personal toolbox literally and physically and gave me the knowledge and materials I needed to get into the trade,” she said. It’s a serious program where you will get out of it what you put into it, Blackert said.

“The program sets you up with everything you need to know to be successful in whichever trade you choose, you just have to work hard and never give up to get to that next step,” she added.



Jenee Blackert is a laborer in Laborers Local 727 out of Dixon, a position she started in the summer of 2020.



K KRAEMER
NORTH
AMERICA

UBC 351

Success Stories



“The whole experience for me was a life changer and I wish I would’ve done it years ago,” she said.

She worked for Civil Constructors on the Hennepin bridge project from September 2020 through December 2020.

“My favorite part of the job was the view, being outdoors and working hard,” she said. “When it got tough, I could stand up and look out to the river and take a deep breath, then get back to it. Seeing the progress of a day’s work is so rewarding!”

Sabrina Duncan is a first-year apprentice for Local 18 Cement Masons and Finishers and a member of Local 544 in Rock Island.





Hasselroth Park Class 2019

Success Stories

Tim was highlighted as a success story by IDOT on their website. Tim was accepted into the Glaziers District Council #58, Local #1168. Tim came to us after being released from the Illinois Department of Corrections after serving 21 years. Tim was looking for an opportunity to improve his life. Tim applied for the Glaziers Apprenticeship Program and was accepted. Tim is now an apprentice and is looking forward to reaching his journeyman status.



Timothy Clark attended the January 2019 HCCTP program at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.





To those who made it possible,

My name is Charles Cox and I graduated with the 2nd class of Highway Construction Careers Training Program on 2/4/2011. I'd like to express my gratitude to the people who mentored and instructed me throughout the course as they were key to my progress in becoming a Carpenter's apprentice as of 3/17/2011. This would not have been possible without the invaluable instruction in trade mathematics and construction technology processes from Bob Barnett and Mike Tompkins. Without the personal interest, effort, and experience of Mark Etters, Chief Program Coordinator, I would not be a Union Carpenter's Apprentice and the tools and equipment we received upon graduation were greatly needed and appreciated. Lastly, I want to thank Mark Etters as the spearhead of a program that is giving hope and direction to so many people in an economy that's ready to get back on its feet. I know that the path I travel is greatly determined by the decisions I make in life and I'm thankful for deciding to enroll in the Highway Construction Careers Training Program.

Sincerely,
Charles A. Cox
Herrin, Illinois

John A. Logan College, Carterville IL









BLACK HAWK COLLEGE



SURFACERS
INC.

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SUNBELT 317G

VISITOR & VENDING
PARKING

BLACK HAWK COLLEGE



STOP

BRAVE

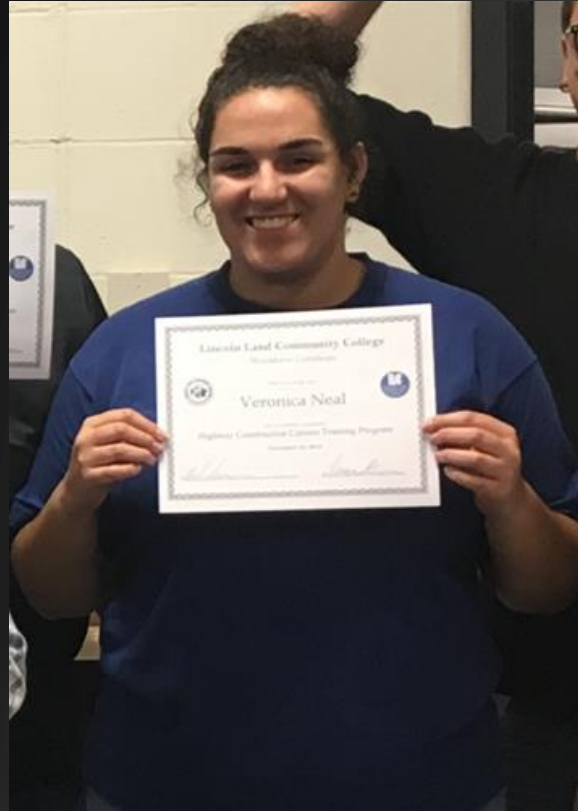
BLACK HAWK



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Veronica Neal completed the HCCTP July 2019 Class. She graduated high school and was determined to get into the trades. Veronica's goal was to get into the Operating Engineers Training program. Her experience was working at a Jewelry Store and fast food. Veronica applied for the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Program and was accepted. Veronica continues to train as an apprentice with the Operating Engineers !





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ME

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STOP

Thank You







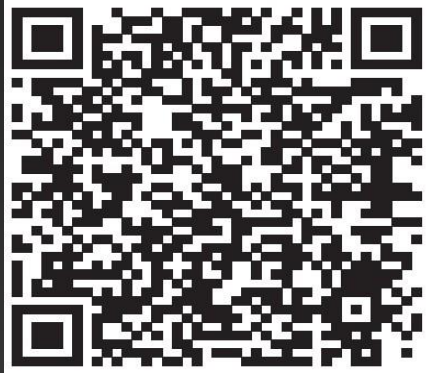
For more information about the Highway Construction Careers Training Program
Please Contact:

Illinois Department of Transportation

Janice Gower

217.557.6136

Janice.gower@illinois.gov



There is Dignity in Any Kind of Work

