

A Glimpse Behind the Industry Curtain

Real-World Student Connections

Collaborative Partners

Economic Development



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- **17 County SI Now Footprint**
- **Priority Areas**
 - Implement Career-Connected Opportunities for Students
 - Engage Local Employers
 - Collaborate Regionally

Real-World Student Connections

- Why This Matters
- Innovative Partnerships
- Hands-On Career Events
- Regional Career Connections Calendar
- Student Impact and Employer Benefits
- Next Steps

Why This Matters

- **Workforce shortages:**

Retirements and an aging workforce are creating ongoing gaps in healthcare, manufacturing, and the skilled trades.

- **Student career exposure/informed decisions**

Students often lack early exposure to local careers, wages, and training options.

- **Keeping talent in Southern Illinois**

Without clear pathways and employer connections, young talent leaves the region and does not return

Early exposure, aligned with education, and strong employer partnerships are key to building and keeping a local workforce.

Why This Matters



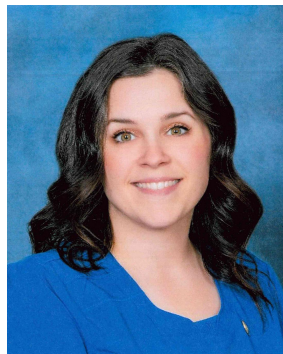
Logan: Participated in a work experience program while in high school, built customer service skills, and was hired full-time after graduation.



Jamonta: Advanced from warehouse roles into a CDL driver position through apprenticeship training, gaining career growth while staying close to family.



Joseph: Completed a CDL apprenticeship and earned a U.S. Department of Labor certificate, helping him secure a stable, family-supporting career.



Traci: With WIOA support, overcame barriers, excelled in nursing school, and became a Registered Nurse earning a strong wage.

Innovative Partnerships



Partnership Development



[SINow BusinessCase 322 Public.pdf](#)

Comprehensive Career Framework - Career Pathways (PACE)

Illinois PaCE: Postsecondary and Career Expectations

- Career Exploration and Development
- Postsecondary Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection
- Financial Aid and Literacy
- College and Career Pathway Endorsements

High-Demand, Growth Occupations

[Agriculture Mechanics \(CCPE\)](#)

[Aircraft Mechanics \(CCPE\)](#)

[Business Computer Systems \(CCPE\)](#)

[Carpentry \(CCPE\)](#)

[Certified Nursing Assistant \(CCPE\)](#)

[Construction Craft Preparation](#)

[\(Laborers\) \(CCPE\)](#)

[Cybersecurity \(CCPE\)](#)

[Education \(CCPE\)](#)

[Social Work \(CCPE\)](#)

[Entrepreneurship \(CCPE\)](#)



<https://youtu.be/36m64INZTZY>

Schools + Employers Working Together

K/S

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS: WIN-WIN OUTCOMES



CONSTRUCTION CRAFT PROGRAM
(LABORERS)



AVIATION



ROE JOB FAIRS



MANUFACTURING TOURS

- Connects students to real careers through hands-on learning and employer engagement.
- Builds a skilled talent pipeline that meets current workforce needs.
- Aligns education and training with real job opportunities and industry demand.
- Strengthens local economies by preparing people for sustainable employment.

Career-Connected Opportunities



Hands-On Career Events

J/K/S



LiUNA Construction Craft Preparation Program

Hands-On Career Events

J/K/S

- **A Day in the Trades: immersive experience showcasing skilled trades.**
- **Manufacturing Day**
- **Healthcare career fairs, simulation labs, and internships.**
- **Manufacturing tours and job-shadowing opportunities.**



PARTICIPATION OPEN TO YOUTH AGES 14-18 | 9AM - 2PM LUNCH PROVIDED

A DAY IN THE TRADES

Join us for a cross-generational, interactive opportunity to learn what it takes for a construction project to go from blueprint to built in the Metro East. The day will consist of supplier & manufacturer learning sessions, a contractor discussion panel and tours. All participants & volunteers will receive a commemorative swag bag and t-shirt!

Important Details

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
- 9AM-2PM
- PART ONE OF AN ONGOING SERIES TO DEVELOP A SKILLED TRADE PIPELINE IN THE METRO EAST
- SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE

Ways to Engage

- ✉ Adayinthetrades@gmail.com
- 🌐 Adayinthetrades.com
- 👤 Student + volunteer registration and the investment portal is open online until Sept 28!

Dive into healthcare this summer!

SIH is accepting applications for the annual High School Summer Internship Program.

- Open to all high school sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduating seniors.
- This 6-8 week program runs from June 18 - July 31, 2026, and nets 80 hours of internship experiences.
- Gain insight into many different areas of a medical career before starting college. Find out if the medical field is the right fit for you!
- Multiple SIH departments and facilities, including Lab, Imaging, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy and more!

Applications are open January 5 - April 13, 2026.

Questions?
Jessica Vicente, Recruiter
jessicavicente@sih.net
618.457.5200 ext. 67813

Apply at sih.net/careers or by scanning the QR code.

Regional Career Connections Calendar

- Origin - Asset Mapping Event Led by the Illinois Education and Career Success Network.
- Centralized resource for schools and employers to coordinate career events.
- Promotes consistency and reduces scheduling conflicts.
- Encourages participation from multiple districts and industries.



REGIONAL CAREER *Connections*

Interested in connecting with area schools, their students and your future talent? Share a company visit or other career-connected opportunity to give students a behind-the-scenes look at your workplace, introduce career paths, and inspire the next generation. Submit your event details and help shape tomorrow's workforce today.

Want to add a career-connected event or company visit to the calendar?

[Submit a Career-Connected Event](#)

Search

Date

Company

City

County

Regional Career Connections Calendar

Dec
05
2025

John A. Logan College 8th Grade Career Fair

📍 John A. Logan College - 700 Logan College Drive | Carterville, IL, 62918



Dec
12
2025

Hastie Mining, LLC Tour

📍 Hastie Mining, LLC - 637 IL 146 E. | Elizabethtown, IL, 62931



Dec
12
2025

Intertape Polymer Group Tour

📍 Intertape Polymer Group - 2200 N McRoy Drive | Carbondale, IL 62901



Feb
20
2026

John A. Logan College Sophomore Day

📍 John A. Logan College - 700 Logan College Drive | Carterville, IL, 62918



Feb
27
2026

Ferrell Hospital Visit

📍 Ferrell Hospital - 1201 Pine Street | Eldorado, IL, 62930



Dec
12
2025

Hastie Mining, LLC Tour

📍 Hastie Mining, LLC - 637 IL 146 E. | Elizabethtown, IL, 62931



Tour of facilities including rock crushing plant, quarry, heavy equipment shop, and office.

Lunch provided on-site.

GRADE LEVELS:
11th-12th

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
Close-toed shoes required. (Steel toed shoes would be preferred.) No hoodies or stringed garments. Long pants required.

EVENT DATE & TIME:
December 12, 2025
12-2 PM

LOCATION:
Hastie Mining, LLC
637 IL 146 E.
Elizabethtown, IL, 62931
Hardin County

[Click Here to Register](#)

It was great to see the size and scale of equipment they use in their operations. It's one thing to see it from a distance, but it's a whole different experience to see the open-pit mine, loaders, and earthing equipment close up. To see the mining operations firsthand was eye-opening for both myself and the students.

*Bryce Parks
Drafting, Welding, and Tech/Engr. Instructor
Marion High School*



Student Impact and Employer Benefits



Student Impact and Employer Benefits

S/J

- Real-world exposure builds confidence and career readiness.
- Helps students discover high-demand, high-wage opportunities locally.
- Encourages nontraditional pathways and lifelong learning.
- Direct pipeline to future workforce.
- Opportunity to shape curriculum and skill development.
- Strengthens community ties and brand visibility.



JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE **JALC**
HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAM (HCCTP)
Funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation

Apply by Nov. 30, 2025 for the Spring 2026 12-week program or learn more at JALC.EDU/HCCTP

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Participants learn invaluable highway construction trades skills
- Monthly stipend, tools, and PPE provided
- Direct pipeline to union apprenticeships
- Free program tuition and training by industry experts

Eligibility: Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, possess a valid driver's license, pass a background check, and consent to and pass random drug screenings.