



Workforce Development

Accessing the World of Work

Survey of African Americans with disabilities to determine how personal factors and characteristics of the vocational rehabilitation service system interact to affect employment status.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Arts and Sciences

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(see also *Rehabilitation and
Disability Studies*)

ADA Training for Staff of the Illinois Employment Training Centers (IETC) in Chicago

Providing training and technical assistance to staff and partners within the One-Stop employment delivery systems funded through the Chicago Workforce Development Board regarding serving customers with disabilities. Training includes disability awareness, facility accessibility planning and effective communication.

Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences

Health and Disability Advocates

Chicago Workforce Development Board

United States Department of Labor

City of Chicago, Mayor's Office for
Workforce Development

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Health Sciences

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(see also *Rehabilitation and
Disability Studies*)

Bridge to Advanced Technological Education and Employment

Develop, evaluate and disseminate instructional materials for "adult tech prep bridge" training programs. Prepares educationally disadvantaged adults for career path employment as technicians and post-secondary technical education in advanced technical fields.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Illinois Institute of Technology,

Academy for Educational Development (AED)

Bachelor of Manufacturing
Technology Program

Chicago Manufacturing Center

Instituto del Progreso Latino

City of Chicago

Richard J. Daley College

Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

Wayne State University

Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation

Henry Ford Community College

Hispanic Manufacturing Center

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Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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Dates Active:

1998—present

Build Today Lead Tomorrow/WNLO Capacity Building Project

GCI is providing assistance to Build Today, Lead Tomorrow (BTLT), a youth development organization, for the purpose of helping the group build its capacity to secure funding, manage its operations, and create a community online radio station. This assistance has been in the form of ongoing research and consultation with a Vernon Jarrett Fellowship Research Assistant and other capacity building assistance. GCI has helped BTLT locate and secure an operating grant, assisted the organization in gaining 501c3 non-profit status, and has provided its staff with access to the Certificate in Non-Profit Management (CNM) program.

Partners:

Build Today, Lead Tomorrow

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Dates active:

October 2005—present

(see also *Education Innovation*)

Center for Human Resources Management

The Center for Human Resource Management (CHRM) is a joint venture between senior executives of member firms and faculty from the Chicago and Urbana Champaign campuses of the University of Illinois for the purpose of solving problems and challenges involving human resource management. The partners and faculty collectively identify and investigate critical human resource issues and in the process discover best practices that result in practical methods for improving the workplace.

A list of current partners can be found at: <http://www.ilir.uiuc.edu/chrm/members.html>.

Partners:

UIC Business Administration

3M Company

Alberto Culver Company

Allstate Corporation

Anheuser Busch Companies, Inc.

Central Life Sciences

DTE

Frito Lay, Inc.

Hewitt Associates, Inc.

Honeywell

Microsoft

Raytheon Company,

Scherer Schneider Paulick

State Farm Insurance

Trilogy, Inc.

USG Corporation

Walgreen Corp.

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Administration

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Dates active:

1991—present

(see also *Business and Entrepreneurial Development, Industry Partnerships*)

Changes in Urban Information Technology Labor Markets

Labor market research examining key IT labor markets in the US.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Ford Foundation

Washington Alliance of Technology Workers

Contacts:

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Director, Center for Urban
Economic Development

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Chicagoland Provider Leadership Network

The CPLN is a collaboration of key stakeholders who enhance the employment of people with disabilities, the majority of which provide direct employment services. The mission of the CPLN is to establish partnerships with employers which result in people with disabilities successfully filling the employment needs of the Chicagoland labor market, and to enhance the provider's capacity to deliver services to their target markets.

Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
AbilityLinks	Illinois Department of Human Services, Department of Rehabilitation Services
Chicago Lighthouse	Illinois Department of Labor
Chicago Workforce Development Board	Jewish Vocational Service Chicago
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce	National Able Network
City of Chicago, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Mayor's Office for Workforce Development	Partners for Inclusive Employment
Community Support Services, Inc.	Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
EmployAlliance WSCCI	Thresholds Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.	United States Social Security Administration
Guild for the Blind	Victor C. Neumann Association
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities	

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(see also Rehabilitation and Disability Studies)

Great Cities Workforce Development Program

These projects seek to advance understanding to increase access to economic opportunity by disadvantaged youths and adults. A key focus of this work is the role of public post-secondary institutions, particularly community colleges, in educating economically educationally disadvantaged individuals for gainful employment in a knowledge economy.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs	Illinois Department of Employment Security
Chicago Housing Authority	John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Chicago Jobs Council	Joyce Foundation
Ford Foundation	Women Employed Institute

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Illinois Career Pathways Initiative

Grassroots effort to encourage Illinois community colleges, in partnership with high schools, universities, and workforce and economic development agencies, to rethink their programs and services in ways that support educational and economic advancement by all of their students, particularly those from underserved groups.

The Illinois Career Pathways Initiative is a program of the Great Cities Institute in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Chicago Jobs Council
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Women Employed Institute

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(see also Services for the Disadvantaged, Undergraduate Support)

Illinois Direct Support Professional Workforce Development Initiative

This initiative will create the infrastructure necessary to increase the recruitment and retention of quality direct support professionals throughout the state.

Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences
AFSCME Council 31
American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), Illinois Chapter
Arc of Illinois
ARC of Rock Island County
Clearbrook
Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois
Community Support Services, Inc.
Cornerstone Services, Inc
Family Support Network of Illinois
Habilitative Systems, Inc.
Human Services Research Institute
Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF)
Illinois Community College Board
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Rehabilitation Services
Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA)
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL)
Institute on Community Integration
Little Friends, Inc.
New Hope Center, Inc.
Oak Leyden Developmental Services, Inc.
Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities
Seguin Services, Inc.
Service Employee International Union (SEIU), Local 880
Southern Illinois University—Carbondale
SPARC, Inc.
State of Illinois, Office of the Governor
United Cerebral Palsy of Illinois
United States Department of Labor
Victor C. Neumann Association

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(see also *Rehabilitation and Disability Studies*)

Impact of Employer Behavior on the Outcome of Union Representation Elections in Chicago

Examines the tactics used by employers when confronted by efforts of employees to form a union.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
American Rights at Work
Chicago Federation of Labor
Illinois AFL CIO

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Improving Economic Opportunities for Latino Workers on Chicago's South Side

Neighborhood strategic planning process to identify economic development and workforce development priorities for the Latino Organization of the Southwest.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Chicago Community Trust
Latino Organization of the Southwest
United States Department of Commerce

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(see also Neighborhood Revitalization)

Job Training and Economic Development

Evaluation of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Job Training and Economic Development (JTED) program, which supports training for unemployed and low-income workers for high-demand jobs with local employers.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Chicago Jobs Council
Joyce Foundation
State Agenda for Community Economic
Development (SACED)
United States Department of Commerce

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National Day Laborer Survey

Survey of street corner day laborers in fifty-nine metropolitan areas regarding employment, immigration, and incorporation issues.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Ford Foundation
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
New School University
Rockefeller Foundation
University of California—Los Angeles

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(see also Services for the Disadvantaged)

National Worker Center Survey

Survey of the worker centers that provide services to street corner day laborers. The Survey explores program models, service delivery, funding, and other issues related to organizational capacity.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Ford Foundation
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
New School University
Rockefeller Foundation
University of California—Los Angeles

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(see also Services for the Disadvantaged)

Partners for Inclusive Employment

A coalition of various partners working to increase employment of people with disabilities through business, provider, and consumer partnerships.

Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences	EmployAlliance WSCI
AbilityLinks	Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago	Illinois Department of Employment Security
Anixter Center	Illinois Department of Human Services
Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation	Illinois Employment and Training Centers (IETC)
Chicago Lighthouse	Jewish Vocational Service Chicago
City of Chicago, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Mayor's Office for Workforce Development	South Austin Coalition Community Council
Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois	United States Social Security Administration
Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago	Westside Jobs Collaborative

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(see also Rehabilitation and Disability Studies)

Project Access

Market research for the planning and design of Project Access, a workforce development initiative aimed at preparing workers from disadvantaged communities to enter jobs in high-demand industries and occupations identified by Illinois's Critical Skill Shortage Initiative.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Kennedy King College
United States Department of Commerce

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*(see also Urban Infrastructure
Improvement)*

State of Affordable Housing in the Chicago Region in the Next Decade

Research project assessing the state of affordable housing in the Chicago region in the next decade.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Chicago Rehabilitation Network, Inc.
Latinos United
Statewide Housing Action Coalition
Woods Fund of Chicago

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(see also Neighborhood Revitalization)

Stepping up Chicago

Analysis of career path opportunities for residents of supportive housing.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Wilbur Wright College

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Economic Development
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(see also Services for the Disadvantaged)

Successful Transition

Provides for the implementation of innovative services under the Workforce Investment Act. Participants receive skill development, access to mentoring and work-based learning experiences.

Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences

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Temping and Low-Wage Work: Bridge or Trap?

Examination of the role of temporary staffing agencies in the delivery of public sector welfare-to-work program in urban areas.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

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(see also Services for the Disadvantaged)

Temporary Work Agencies and Urban Labor Markets in Europe and the US

Comparative research project examining the growth and diversification of the temporary staffing industry in Europe and the United States

Partners:

British Academy

University of Manchester

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Director, Center for Urban Economic Development

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Under the Radar: Unregulated Work in Chicago and New York City

Comparative research project examining the growth of informal employment arrangements that exist beyond the reach of government regulation. This project aims to identify the drivers behind the growth of unregulated work, both on the demand side (industrial structure, competitive dynamics) and on the supply side (worker characteristics) of local labor markets.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Baruch College (CUNY)

New York University

Rockefeller Foundation

Russell Sage Foundation

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(see also Services for the Disadvantaged)

Undocumented Workers Research

Center for Urban Economic Development conducted a study that shows that undocumented workers account for a growing five percent share of the Chicago labor market and are important contributors to the local economy. Yet, they experience substandard wages and working conditions because they lack legal status.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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Women in Science and Engineering: Network Access, Participation and Career Outcomes

National Science Foundation statistics continue to demonstrate an under representation of women and members of certain race and ethnic groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields (NSF 2002). These data show that women and some minorities have lower salaries, faculty rank or position, and productivity in terms of the number and quality of publications.

Much of the prior research is rich with anecdotal evidence that explains the circumstances and conditions of women scientists as they progress in their careers. It suggests that women's advancement and success depends on early identification of, participation in, and adequate access to, networks. However, it provides insufficient scientific basis to understand how the nuances of networks determine women's career outcomes in science and engineering. Our research seeks to fill this gap by addressing the research question: How and why do networks make a difference in the career outcomes of women in STEM careers?

Partners:

UIC Public Administration
UIC College of Urban Planning and
Public Affairs
National Science Foundation

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(see also Education Innovation)

Women in Science and Engineering Program (WISE)

WISE is a program of the UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender. WISE's mission is to recruit, retain, and advance women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We work on this mission by working with pre-university girls (K-12), community college students, current UIC students, UIC postdoctoral fellows, and UIC faculty. The program houses pre-college, campus, and faculty (WISEST) programs. WISE works with the Chicago community through the WISE Neighbors initiative.

Partners:

UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research	Caterpillar, Inc.
UIC CRWG	College of DuPage
UIC Provost's Office	El Valor
UIC Office of Faculty Affairs	Girl Scouts (Various councils and troops)
UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences	Illinois Board of Higher Education
UIC Gender and Women's Studies Program	Midwest Generation
UIC Engineering	Motorola
UIC Gender and Women's Studies Program	National Science Foundation
UIC National Center of Excellence in Women's Health	Northrop Grumman

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Dates Active:

2002—present
(see also Undergraduate Support)