

# Transitions Academy



**Literacy Chicago & Unite Here Chicago Hospitality Institute**

**Bridging Skills, Building Futures**

**Strengthening Partnerships for ICAPS Success**

# Transitions Academy

## Meet the Team:

Richard Dominguez-Literacy Chicago | Executive Director

Marisol Guzman-Literacy Chicago | Lead IET Instructor

Sheryl Morris-Unite Here Chicago Hospitality Institute | Executive Director

Chef Victor Martinez-Unite Here Chicago Hospitality Institute | Lead Chef



# Partnership



## Who We Are and How This Relationship Began

### Literacy Chicago

- Committed to providing adult education, ICAPS, and workforce development programs.
- Expertise in Adult Basic Education, English language instruction, and contextualized math for workforce readiness.

### Unite Here Chicago Hospitality Institute (UHCHI)

- Nonprofit Labor Management Workforce Development Organization: Focused on Recruiting/Training/Placement into good Union Jobs with UNITE HERE Local 1
- US DOL Registered Apprenticeship
- Provides hands-on experience, industry-specific knowledge, and job placement support

### How This Relationship Began

- Identifying a need for support services
- Connecting to fellow adult education partners



# Partnership



- Shared Vision
- Mutual Strengths
- Listen to Students, Partners, and Employers
- Flexibility
- Developing and maintaining partnerships



# Keys to success



- Trust, Comfort, Honest Communication
- Doing What is Best for Students
- Barrier Reduction Assistance
- Constant Adaptation & Open Feedback Loops



# ICAPS to registered apprenticeship



- Structure of the program (Credentials)
- How students are supported
- Rigor
  - Bridge class
    - Data informed decisions
    - Better prepares students
  - Continuous assessment
- Contextualized multilingual support
- Continuous assessment and adjustments based on feedback from students, instructors and employers



# ICAPS to registered apprenticeship



## Success Stories & Student Support

- Sense of belonging
- Started digital literacy program to address needs
  - Employer partners are requesting short bio-apprentices need email etiquette
  - Equip students with essential digital skills to navigate the modern job market
  - Templates and examples of letters that are professional and tailored to the needs of the apprenticeships, helping streamline communication
  - Introduction to career pathways
- Communication in the workplace is different, occasionally heated situations
  - Assertive, passive, aggressive responses
  - Nonverbal communication



# Looking Towards the Future



- Expansion Growth and New Partnerships
- IL Thing-asking and hearing students' voices before, during, and after the program
- Fostering Resilience: Empowering learners with the skills and support to overcome challenges and pursue successful careers.
- Empowering Journeys: We are not here to only tell students stories; we are here to support them in the next steps in their story.





Questions?