

Nina Olszanski

Laborers' Local 582, Plote Construction Inc.



After working a variety of jobs, including waitressing and others in the food service industry, Nina Olszanski was looking for a change.

Seeking a career that offered stability, more income and room for advancement, Nina set aside her reservations about entering the male-dominated field of highway construction and pursued an opportunity to participate in the Tollway's Earned Credit Program (ECP) in 2008.

The ECP is a rewards initiative that allows contractors and subcontractors to

earn bid credits toward future Tollway construction bids when they hire from a pool of qualified, pre-screened job candidates, including underemployed African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, women, eligible offenders and veterans.

"The opportunities for training and now work have changed my whole life. It has brought a lot of hope for me and a lot of other workers. None of this would have been possible without this chance to work on the Tollway's Move Illinois Program."

Nina earned sponsorship into the Laborers' Local 582 through Plote Construction. Shortly after launching her new career as a concrete quality control inspector, the economy struggled and construction work

slowed down significantly. She began to wonder if she had made the right choice. Her fortunes changed, however, with the Illinois Tollway's approval of the \$12 billion, 15-year *Move Illinois* Program.

Now in her sixth season, Nina continues to do materials field testing on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project. Not only does she have the opportunity to work on a Tollway project not far from home, but the job security has helped her buy a new house in Algonquin and start a family.

Nina enjoys the fast-paced work on the construction site and the challenge of learning new skills working with concrete pavement. And, she especially appreciates the satisfaction of completing a new road that will serve drivers and communities for decades to come.



Nina Olszanski found a stable, good-paying construction career through the Illinois Tollway's Earned Credit Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOLLWAY'S MOVE ILLINOIS PROGRAM, VISIT WWW.ILLINOISTOLLWAY.COM.