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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508  
OCTOBER 9, 2025

**RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE**  
CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

# Arturo Velasquez Institute (AVI)

**Board Meeting Presentation**

October 9, 2025

**Peggy Korellis, Ed.D.-** Interim President

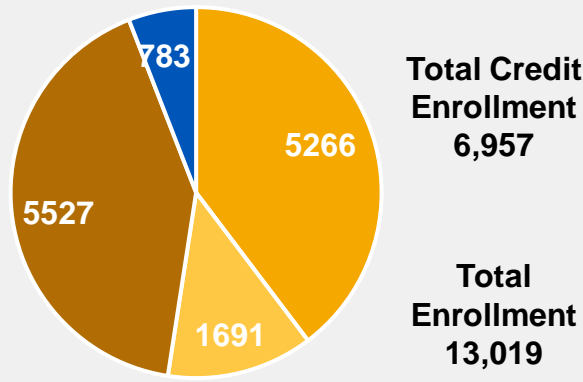
**Alicia Rodriguez,** Dean- AVI

**Teresa Guia,** Senior Dean Adult Education

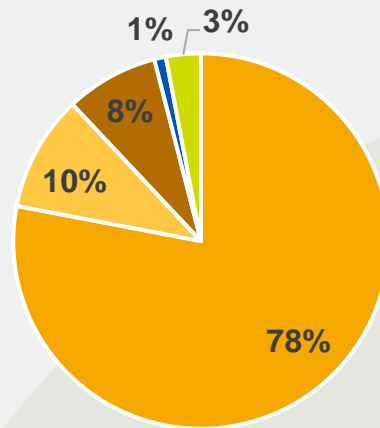
**Nancy Cortes,** Assistant Dean of Continuing  
Education

# Richard J. Daley College + Arturo Velasquez Institute (AVI)

## ENROLLMENT



## ETHNICITY



■ Credit ■ Credit- Early College ■ Latine ■ Black ■ White ■ Asian ■ Other  
■ Adult Education ■ Continuing Education

- Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)
- Seal of Excelencia
- Center of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing; home to award-winning Manufacturing Technology Engineering Center (MTEC)



**7500 South Pulaski**



**2800 South Western**

# Arturo Velasquez Institute (AVI) is in the heart of the city and for years has served as an entry point for immigrants

## Evolution of a Community Asset on City's Southwest Side

- The foundation and purpose of AVI was developed in the early 1990's by community members who envisioned a space to provide educational and economic opportunities to those in the surrounding communities.
- AVI, previously named Westside Technical Institute (WSTI), opened in 1996, offering a variety of technical and work-skills programs for community residents, as a satellite of Daley College.
- In 2007, Westside Technical Institute was renamed Arturo Velasquez Institute (AVI) in honor of community leader Arturo Velasquez who was the first Mexican American to serve on the City Colleges of Chicago Board of Trustees.
- Program offerings have focused on workforce initiatives and Adult Education to provide residents a pathway toward upward mobility and integration.
- In 2022, AVI launched a new Chicago Welcome Back Center assisting individuals with international degrees and licenses to re-enter their career field in the US.

AVI Enrollment – FY25		
Adult Education	1,451	62%
Credit	736	31%
Continuing Education	178	8%
Total	2,340	100%

# Adult Education at AVI offers:

**Tuition-free courses with wraparound supports** designed to remove barriers and help adult learners succeed in college, careers, and civic life.

- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses** – Building language proficiency for college, career, and community success.
- **High School Equivalency Preparation (Spanish & English)** – Flexible pathways in both languages that expand access for adult learners pursuing a diploma.
- **Computer Literacy Courses** – Essential digital skills that prepare students for today's workforce and continued education.
- **Community Health Worker Bridge Program** – Students are *co-enrolled in Credit and Adult Education courses*, where they receive support in English language acquisition or High School Equivalency preparation. This concurrent model strengthens persistence and creates a clear pathway into high-demand health careers.
- **Citizenship Classes** – Preparing students for the U.S. Citizenship exam while encouraging civic participation and community leadership.



**ADULT EDUCATION  
at  
AVI**

# CREDIT PROGRAMS

We had 84 Basic  
Certificate completers  
last year!

## Community Healthcare Worker Basic Certificate 16 Credit Hours

The Community Health Care Worker program is designed to focus on competencies universally required for primary and preventive health care. The curriculum also serves students who may wish to enter into a nursing program or other allied health professions.

AVI proudly offers this program in a bilingual format (English and Spanish) and has an embedded field experience for applied learning.



# CREDIT PROGRAMS

Program serves  
approximately 20-25  
students annually

## Sustainable Urban Horticulture Advanced Certificate 31 Credit Hours

The Horticulture certificate program is designed to provide students with cutting edge opportunities in the area of green technologies.

Students receive a combination of classroom, lab, and field experience at the Arturo Velasquez Institute (AVI) greenhouse and at Windy City Harvest farm sites, complemented by a 12-week paid work experience at a Windy City Harvest farms or partnering urban-farming operation.



# CREDIT PROGRAMS

Program serves  
approximately 300  
students annually,  
~100 per cohort

## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

### Electrical Construction Technology Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

This program is a 3-year apprenticeship program with Electrical Workers Local No. 134 union. Upon completion of program, students earn 53.5 CH towards the AAS in Electrical Construction Technology, and need 15 CH in general education courses to complete their degree which they can take before, during or after program.



# CREDIT PROGRAMS

## Early College for CPS students

**AVI** partners with local high schools to offer Early College.

Current partner high schools are:

- Infinity High School of Little Village
- World Language High School of Little Village
- Instituto Health Science High School

**Most common courses:**

- Business
- Welding
- Computer Information Science
- As of this year: Community Health Worker



Early College: FY25			
	# of students	# of credits	\$ savings
Daley + AVI	1,691	14,394	<b>\$2,202,282</b>

**Coming soon  
to Credit**

# **Spanish/ English Translation and Interpreting Program Basic Certificate 27 Credit Hours**

**New Program: awaiting ICCB approval**

This program is very exciting because it gives students three options to choose from to focus their translation skills:

**legal, medical and educational**

Students will then complete practicums with our employer partners where they will get to practice their skills while also receiving additional training.

# Continuing Education Programs

## **Basic Solar- with IBEW REF, 30 hours.**

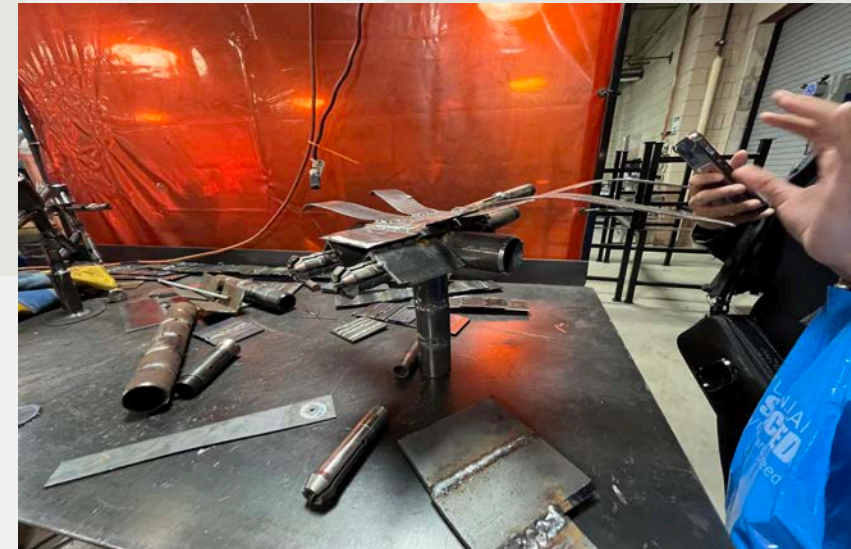
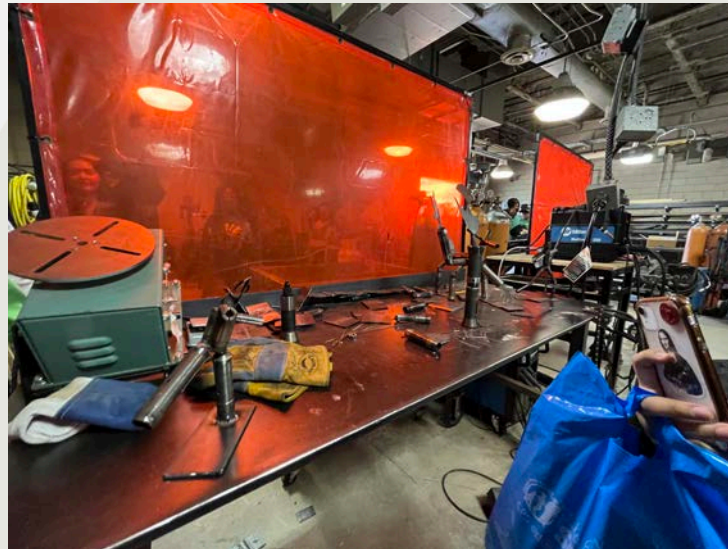
Students learn Photovoltaic system installation, maintenance & troubleshooting, and explore pre-apprenticeship & apprenticeship opportunities. Current enrollment: 32 students

## **Emergency Management & Communications: 911 & 311, dispatch operations, 32 hours.**

This program focuses on the basics of 911 dispatch operations through role-play and simulation and also emergency management, traffic management & 311 city services. Starts October 21. Spring enrollment: 10

## **Welding Training, 96 hours**

Students receive training in metal inert gas (MIG), welding and related operation of support equipment giving them industry recognized certificate and skills needed for entry-level jobs in the welding industry. Spring Enrollment: 30



# Continuing Education Programs

## **Industrial Sewing, 60 hours. NEW CLASS!**

This course is an introduction to sewing in the manufacturing industry. Students learn to use the industrial sewing machine and other sewing equipment to make textile samples, as well as machine maintenance, pattern reading and more.

Current Enrollment: 8 students

## **Sherwin Williams Painter Skills Program, 15 hours. NEW CLASS!**

This program provides a comprehensive hands-on experience and overview in the fundamentals of painting for both residential and commercial painting applications. Summer cohort: 15 students

## **Financial Careers Training with Association House, 120 hours.**

This program prepares students for careers in the financial services industry by teaching the skills needed for retail banking occupations such as tellers, customer service representatives and personal bankers. Spring Enrollment: 10 students



# Chicago Welcome Back Center

To address the critical shortage of qualified professionals in healthcare and education, the Chicago Welcome Back Center at Daley College was launched as a bold and innovative solution.

**CWBC's goal is to build a bridge between the pool of internationally trained healthcare and education professionals living in Illinois and the need for linguistically and culturally competent services in our communities.**

Through career-focused courses, case management, ESL (in partnership with Adult Education) and test prep, individuals who participate in the CWBC program can eventually attain licensure to work in the State of Illinois.

The CWBC has already provided several professional development offerings for both the nurse and teacher pathways and is currently developing more.



## **Nurse Pathway**

- Medical English 1 & 2
- Intro to U.S. Healthcare System
- Current Topics in Nursing

## **Teacher Pathway**

- Intro to U.S. Education System
- Classroom Management
- Differentiated Instruction
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEIB)

# Other cool spaces at AVI

## Innovation One Lab

This mac computer lab is used for a variety of functions, including teacher professional development with Apple, partnering with Everyone Can Code, hosting summer camps with One Summer Chicago Youth, and more.

## Education Workforce Center

This is the second location of Truman College's Education Workforce Center run by Truman College, at AVI. The Education Workforce Center (EWC) is designed to support Early Childhood, Elementary/Secondary, and Higher Education through a collective impact model which brings together educators, higher education institutions, community partners, and employers to create a professional learning community. Truman's Education Workforce Center is brand new at AVI.



**Thank you!**