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Academy later this year, where the casino will train them for their jobs.

CLEVELAND - When Horseshoe Casino Cleveland advertised for 500 dealer and supervisor positions last month, the online applications numbered in the thousands: 11,800 to be exact.

This week, roughly a third of them are being called back for the next phase of this process, face-to-face interviews, with nearly 50 Caesars employees flown in from around the country.

From this group, more than 500 of them will be invited to take part in Caesars' Table Game Service Academy later this year, where the casino will train them for their jobs.

"The caliber of candidates we're seeing so far has just got our whole team energized," said Horseshoe Casino V.P. and Assistant General Manager Brad Hirsch. "We've taken a very aggressive approach here in Cleveland in that we wanted to be very inclusive and we wanted to also open our arms to people with no casino experience."

The table games staff will be the largest single staff at the new casino, accounting for roughly a third of the casino's 1,500 positions. Tosha Tousant will head up the group and is excited about what she's seeing.

"What we're seeing in the application process seems very promising. I don't think we're going to have a lot of issues," she said.

The interviews this week are by call-back only. The online application process ended Sept. 30.

Horseshoe Casino Cleveland has pledged that 90 percent of its workforce will be local.