

LOCAL ACE MENTOR SELECTED AS NATIONAL OUTSTANDING MENTOR



Crystal Markley, P.E. was selected as one of six 2016 ACE-ENR Outstanding Mentors. The competition was especially keen this year. Other winners from among the 22 nominations come from the Boston, Twin Cities, San Diego, Central FL (Orlando) and Indiana affiliates.

Crystal has made an incalculable difference in northeast Florida as an outstanding mentor who has impacted students, fellow mentors and our local affiliate. She has been mentoring with the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida for ten years, and is a long-time board member as well. Crystal is a Lead Civil Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.

With her humble, amiable and altogether approachable disposition, Crystal easily establishes rapport with her students. When other mentors seem to drop in and out, she's a familiar constant in ACE; students quickly recognize that she's trusted and respected by their teacher. Monique Bell, Engineering Academy Department Chair at Lee High recognized Crystal's "positive, encouraging and friendly attitude towards all the students and mentors" in a recent letter of recommendation.

Student Tianna Davis also recognizes and appreciates Crystal's dedication "at each and every ACE meeting" and her willingness to share her knowledge with both students and other ACE mentors.

Crystal's greatest impact on students has been continuing the mentoring relationship with several ACE students after graduation. Becoming a first career mentor for these young professionals, Crystal has given college/education advice, provided referrals for internships and helped guide them as they enter the professional world. Once such student, Corina Cain, was so inspired by Crystal's example, she returned to ACE as a mentor.

Fellow mentor and engineer Brian Warfield noted that Crystal's commitment to ACE includes using Paid Time Off benefits from her job to volunteer for ACE. Warfield said it was "immediately apparent that she was passionate about passing on her engineering knowledge to the next generation" when he first met Crystal.

Crystal also provides an extraordinary example for her students. In addition to ACE, Crystal volunteers in a variety of STEM related activities. She is active in the Society of Military Engineers, and has held numerous leadership positions with American Society of Civil Engineers, including President of the Jacksonville Branch (2005-2006) and President of the Florida Section (2009-2010).

Most notably, Crystal is a leader in Engineers Without Borders, working with communities and local NGOs to design and implement sustainable clean water projects in Guatemala and Honduras, helping communities meet basic water needs.

The award will be formally presented on April 25 in Washington, DC in conjunction with the spring meetings of the ACE National Board and the finals of the National Design Competition. Our Orange Park High School National Team will be competing in the finals as well.

Crystal is a graduate of Penn State University and has been mentoring with the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida for ten years.