



FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

CONTACT: Trisha Grant
Greater Washington ACE Mentor Program
202-577-3028

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Bruce Ross Associates Inc
Media: Bruce Ross
212-768-1155

COOLIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TO REVITALIZE HISTORIC ALUMNI GREENHOUSE

(Washington, D.C.) The ACE Coolidge Senior High School (Coolidge) Team will continue its Capstone project from last year and continue efforts to rehabilitate the school's greenhouse – a gift from the Class of 1950.

The Coolidge greenhouse is several decades old. Due to lack of maintenance and use, the greenhouse is in desperate need of rehabilitation. The ACE Coolidge Team, along with the school's Alumni association and other key stakeholders, not only plans to restore this historical keepsake, but also to create the first LEED certified school greenhouse in the area.

The ACE Coolidge Team envisions that, "...as the 'Coolidge Green Team', we can set an example for other schools as to the importance of studying sciences such as horticulture, astronomy, meteorology, etc., and how they can apply to today. Being the only LEED certified greenhouse at a school other than Portland University will be something the students at Coolidge can be proud of!!"

Currently, the mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems are in need of repair and slated for evaluations. In the process of cleaning the debris and materials left from decades of neglect, the ACE Coolidge Team has come up with a recycling plan to sort items that can be reused. They are also evaluating the tie-in to the main school building so that solar energy can be used; and water collected from runoff will be reused.

Most students at Coolidge do not know of the school's greenhouse; or that it has been abandoned for decades. With adequate funding, the ACE Coolidge Team aims to change that by bringing the greenhouse "back to life" and creating a new functional design to meet the school's current needs. The team also plans to preserve such historical items of the greenhouse as the alumni plaque and "Class of 1950" engraved stone bench.

About ACE

ACE is an acronym for architecture, construction, and engineering. It is a unique partnership among industry professionals, college and university representatives and professional organizations. The ACE Mentor Program's mission is to enlighten and increase the awareness of high school students to career opportunities in architecture, construction and engineering – as well as other related areas of the design and construction industry – through mentoring and scholarship awards.

For more information, or for inquiries on how to become involved, contact Executive Director Trisha Grant, LEED AP at tgrantdcaffiliate@acemmentor.org and/or 202.577.3028. Or visit: www.acemmentor.org.

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