



## **ACE Mentor Program Participates in 2012 Democratic National Convention**

**Date: September 3-6, 2012**

**Location: Uptown Charlotte**

The Charlotte affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program (ACE) has a unique opportunity to participate in the upcoming Democratic National Convention (DNC). In working with the DNC Host committee, ACE has been invited to participate in the kickoff celebration, Carolinafest 2012, and the Legacy Village.

The Charlotte in 2012 Convention Host Committee is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established by the city of Charlotte to fulfill obligations of the master contract with the Democratic National Convention Committee. In addition to those obligations, Charlotte in 2012 will host CarolinaFest 2012, a free family friendly Labor Day Celebration that will occur in Uptown Charlotte to kick off the convention. During CarolinaFest and the convention, the Legacy Village will highlight efforts by the community and our partners to support Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx's convention legacy programs. The Legacy Village will be home to engaging exhibits and fun activities that will inspire festivalgoers to take steps to become involved in their communities and carry these legacies forward. The four convention legacy programs are; Healthy Children, Healthy Families; Youth Employment and Civic Education; Building a Broader, More Inclusive Economy; and Energy, Technology, and Sustainability.

ACE is a National mentoring program intended to increase awareness of high school students to career opportunities in architecture, construction, and engineering through mentoring. Since its beginning in 1994, ACE has grown to over 200 cities, with 8,000 students, and 5,000 mentors annually. In Charlotte, there are more than 130 students, 45 mentors and 7 participating schools (Hopewell High School, Myers Park High School, West Charlotte High School, South Mecklenburg High School, Phillip O. Berry High School, East Mecklenburg High School, Ardrey Kell). Throughout the school year, the students work on real world design and construction issues through job tours, office visits and hands-on activities, as well as, compete to be the winning school for the ACE Cup.

At CarolinaFest and Legacy Village, ACE will exhibit work and videos from previous students as well as an interactive experience. The interactive exhibit will allow participants a firsthand understanding of the students' learning experience with the ACE Mentoring Program. However, the roles are reversed in this activity. Past and present ACE students will be leading attendees as they compete to build the tallest spaghetti structure and teach important design lessons around architecture, the environment and buildings. The work created during this event will remain on display for visitors to view.

We invite you to come out and learn a little about the ACE Mentor Program as well as let the students demonstrate a little of what they have learned from the program. *For more information, visit [www.CarolinaFest2012.com](http://www.CarolinaFest2012.com) or <http://charlottein2012.com/> or <http://www.acementor.org/612>*

For more information, please contact:

Jenny Vallimont – Chair

704-560-5811

[jenny.vallimont@bankofamerica.com](mailto:jenny.vallimont@bankofamerica.com)

Tracy Dodson – Board Member

704-231-5587

[tdodson@charlottecentercity.org](mailto:tdodson@charlottecentercity.org)