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Mountain View High School Students Place Second in National Design Competition with Bold New Design for Their School

Students Present Winning Project at School Board Meeting

Mountain View, CA – June 2, 2011 – An eco-friendly design scheme for a totally reconceived Mountain View High School, created by seven of the school's students, has won second place in a prestigious national competition organized by the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) and the Architecture, Construction, Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program of America.

One of three finalists out of 37 entries from across the country, the Mountain View team traveled to Washington, DC earlier this month to present its project to a jury of seven CEOs of leading American design and construction companies. Jurors were impressed by the thoughtful way the project integrated many sustainable design strategies.

The students were part of the nationwide ACE program in which volunteer architects, engineers and construction professionals mentor high school students in order to attract them to pursue careers in the design and construction industry. During the 15-session after-school program, mentors lead students through a realistic simulation of designing and building a structure. In addition to the regular ACE sessions, the Mountain View team met weekly on its own and often during lunch breaks in order to complete its project.

Aimée Lopez, the lead mentor for the Mountain View team and a project manager with O'Connor Construction Management, Inc., admired the creativity and dedication of the students. "They functioned as a dynamic team," she said, "and brought different strengths and expertise to their project, just as happens in the real world when a structure gets designed and built."

The newly conceived Mountain View High School includes an administration building with 12 classrooms and a green roof with solar panels, a theater having a rib-caged roof where vines can grow to provide natural shading, and an athletic facility and sports fields. The roofs of the campus's largest structure, an academic wing with 34 classrooms, are glass so that classrooms will be filled with natural light and slanted to the center in order to capture rainwater which is diverted to cisterns and recycled for toilets and irrigation. The students took inspiration from trees, and nature. Their design was not only eco-conscious, but architecturally innovative and thoughtfully planned. Joseph Chang, senior at Mountain View High School, was the lead student designer and presenter at the CIRT conference.

"Our design incorporates many sustainable features because we wanted to educate and inspire students to be green," explained Joseph Chang the student leader of the Mountain View ACE team. "We also wanted to take advantage of the long-term cost savings realized with green design strategies."

ACE Mentor Bay Area

www.acementor.org

Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering

At the invitation of the Mountain View/Los Altos Union High School District Board of Trustees, the students presented their winning design at the Board's May 23 meeting. [A PDF file of the presentation boards depicting and explaining the students' design concepts is available upon request.]

About the ACE Mentor Program

The ACE Mentor Program was founded in 1995 by the principals of leading design and construction firms. Its mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to careers in the integrated construction industry through mentoring; and, provide a means for their continued advancement in the industry through scholarships and grants. ACE's 72 affiliates in 36 states organize 1,800 volunteer mentors to deliver the program to 8,000 students. Since its founding, ACE has awarded \$10.5 million in scholarships. For further information, visit www.acementor.org

The San Francisco Bay Area ACE affiliate, established in 2005, engaged 260 students during the 2010-2011 school year mentored by more than 100 architects, engineers and construction professionals. Mentor-student teams were spread out over 9 Bay Area counties.

About the Construction Industry Round Table

Based in Washington, DC, the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) is exclusively composed of approximately 100 CEOs from the leading architectural, engineering and construction firms doing business in the United States. CIRT is the only organization positioned to express in a singular voice the views of the richly diverse and dynamic design/construction community. For more information on this and other issues affecting the design and construction industry, check out: www.cirt.org

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Photo Caption: (l to r) Charlie H. Thornton, Chairman/Founder of ACE, along with the Mountain View High School Students Ariel Rao, Beatrice Goh, Joseph Chang, Jake Caccarno, Christina Nilles and Chloe Merriam, followed by Team mentor Aimee Lopez.