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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ACE MENTOR PROGRAM LAUNCHES NEW AFFILIATE IN SACRAMENTO**

ACE California Capital will provide mentorship and support to local high school students interested in architecture, construction and engineering

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.**—June 3, 2021—ACE Mentor Program of America ([ACE](#)) today announced its newest affiliate, [ACE California Capital](#), which will serve high school students across the Sacramento area through the organization’s proven, hands-on programming that offers practical training and supports career development in the fields of architecture, construction and engineering (A/C/E).

ACE’s free, after-school program is open to high school students. Participants are placed on teams to work together over the course of a school year on projects that involve nearly every phase of the construction process. Teams are guided by experienced volunteer mentors from local architecture, construction and engineering companies who provide knowledge, instruction and mentorship as they help their students learn how professionals take a building from an initial concept to a final structure. ACE California Capital is currently hosting an abbreviated program in the Sacramento area as well as conducting outreach to identify a local school for its upcoming fall 2021 program.

“We are excited to expand ACE’s national footprint into the growing Sacramento region and look forward to providing access to additional opportunities for local high school students,” said Paulette Dallas, Western Regional Director of ACE. “Our hope is that ACE California Capital will further contribute to the success of the next generation of professionals shaping the built environment in this thriving real estate market.”

Sarah McIlroy, a civil engineer and vice president with Stantec, serves as chair of the ACE California Capital affiliate. Additional board members include Ryan Carter, civil engineer and associate with KPFF (vice chair); Courtney Brogard, vice president of inspection sales with APi (vice chair); Jing Carter, controller at California State University Sacramento (treasurer); Kym Aguilar, counsel with OTMK Law (legal chair); Brendan Carter, vice president of labor relations with AGC of California (curriculum committee chair); and Chris Perry, director of sales with Jensen Corp (board member). As the ACE California Capital board continues to grow, additional members will be announced later this year.

“Sacramento is expected to see a significant uptick in construction projects this year, so we’re excited to offer the area’s students a realistic picture of the building industry’s many rewarding career opportunities through our mentorship programs,” said McIlroy. “The impact of ACE is clear. We have



admired the many benefits the organization has brought to students and companies across the country, and we can't wait to bring the same experience and value to this new region.”

Founded in 1994, ACE is a federation that has grown to more than 70 affiliates, operating primarily in metropolitan areas across 37 states. ACE draws approximately 10,000 student participants annually from more than 1,000 high schools nationwide. Of ACE's annual grade 12 participants, 70 percent enter a skilled trades program or college with an A/E/C industry-related major after graduation. In addition, ACE awards approximately \$2.5 million in scholarships annually to high school seniors and alumni studying to pursue industry-related careers.

ACE California Capital is currently conducting a virtual five-week program with Mountain House High School, just south of Tracy, California. Mentors are working with 25 students during weekly sessions to introduce them to the industry, construction sites, architecture, engineering and construction management. ACE California Capital will award one student with a \$500 sponsorship to the ACE Virtual Summer Camp in association with the University of Colorado Denver. Stantec provided an initial sponsorship for the new ACE affiliate, which is being used for additional summer camp scholarships, supplies for the current spring program and seed money for the fall 2021 program.

ACE California Capital is looking for mentors for fall 2021 and corporate sponsors to further support the program and scholarships. For more information visit [acementor.org/ca-capital](https://acementor.org/ca-capital). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sarah McIlroy at [sacramentoca@acementor.org](mailto:sacramentoca@acementor.org) or 916-717-9635.

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### **About ACE Mentor California Capital**

ACE Mentor California Capital was formed in 2021 to serve high school students in the greater Sacramento area by providing free after-school programs, practical training and career development support to those interested in exploring architecture, construction and engineering (A/C/E) professions. Guided by volunteer mentors from the local A/C/E industry, students work in teams to gain practical knowledge and hands-on experience regarding every phase of the construction process. For more information visit [acementor.org/ca-capital](https://acementor.org/ca-capital).

### **About the ACE Mentor Program**

The ACE Mentor Program of America was founded in 1994 by the principals of distinguished design and construction firms under the leadership and guiding force of Dr. Charles H. Thornton. Its mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry. ACE's more than 70 affiliates in 37 states organize 4,100 mentors to deliver a 15-session after-school program to almost 10,000 students. ACE's sponsors include many of America's leading companies in the design and construction industry. For more information visit [www.acementor.org](https://www.acementor.org).