



FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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## **ACE Mentor Program of Maine Formed**

### **New affiliate to facilitate high school students considering a construction-related profession as a career**

**Bangor, ME, January 12, 2009** – A new affiliate of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program has been created in Hampden, Maine.

The ACE Mentor Program was created to address the growing need for skilled professionals in the architecture, construction and engineering industries - a shortage that could become a crisis if current trends continue. The new ACE Mentor Program of Maine is part of a nationwide program of outreach and mentoring for students across the country. The mentors are professionals from leading design and construction firms who volunteer their time and energy to engage, inform, and challenge youth.

“The construction industry is the second-largest employer in the U.S. With 50 percent of all buildings that will exist by the year 2030 not even built yet, it is a growing industry. However, current statistics project that the need for qualified, skilled individuals working in the field will far exceed the supply, with over 1 million job openings by 2012,” said Dr. Charles H. Thornton, Founder and Chairman of ACE. “This is a crisis that we cannot afford – the growth of our country depends on finding solutions. These national and local initiatives will help to begin the careers of a new generation of talented professionals and marks a historic opportunity for us to make a difference and continue the growth of an industry that is so important.”

The initiation of the ACE program in Maine is underway with the creation of an executive committee and the introduction of mentoring opportunities at Hampden Academy in Hampden, Maine. The executive committee and founding members of the affiliate include Gary Frankel, AIA, a registered architect with WBRC Architects/Engineers, Rob Beal, an intern architect, Jessica Brodeur, an interior designer and Paul Monyok, P.E. a civil engineer, all with WBRC Architects / Engineers, and Tom Figura, a Senior Estimator with the CIANBRO Corporation.

### **ACE Mentor Program of America**

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***Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering***

“We are thrilled to welcome the new ACE chapter in Maine into our program,” said Pamela Mullender, President ACE Mentor Program. “The ACE Mentor Program has a presence in 107 cities in America and is still growing with dozens of locations eager to start a program. By the end of this past school year, approximately 35,000 students had the opportunity to explore the construction industry through ACE and we predict an additional 10,000 participants in the current 2008-2009 school year.”

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

The ACE Mentor Program is the fastest-growing high school mentoring program focusing on careers in the design/build industry. It was founded by the principals of leading design and construction firms, to introduce high school students to career opportunities in the industry. The mission of the organization is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in the design/build construction industry through mentoring; and to support their continued advancement in the industry through scholarships and grants. ACE makes a special attempt to reach students that otherwise may not become aware of the challenges and rewards of a career in the design and construction industry. For additional information please visit [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org).