



## **ACE MENTORING AWARDS OVER \$17,000.00 AT ANNUAL BANQUET**

Sixty-six local high school students spent sixteen weeks this spring working one-on-one with over fifty mentors from the local construction, engineering, design, and architecture industries as a part of the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc. The ACE program exposes the students to potential careers in the construction industry through a program including such things as sustainable design, civil engineering, and estimating/scheduling, and field trips to local construction sites. The students then use this new knowledge to work closely with their mentors to prepare a final project.

This year's project required the students to prepare a proposal for the design and construction of a single family home on one of three urban site locations. The design parameters included that the home was to be between 2,000 and 3,000 square feet; include a living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and three bathrooms; and be designed to correspond with its surrounding elements. Later in the project students were thrown a twist when they received owner requirements such as the request for a front porch, a dining room that could seat 10 people, and the use of energy efficient lighting. Sustainable design concepts were also required.

All this hard work culminated in a luncheon and awards ceremony at the University of North Florida on May 20, 2010. At the ceremony, five (5) teams of students presented their projects to a room packed full of construction leaders, including their ACE mentors, as well as parents, grandparents, and family members. The student teams were judged on the quality of their presentation, as well as the deliverables they provided, including: site plan, floor plan(s), engineering plan, elevation drawing, interior finish selection board, LEED score card, zoning and building code analysis, project schedule, and a cost estimate. Teams were also encouraged to provide physical models or renderings.



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Johnathan Perkins, Charmaine Ervin, Mercelin Etienne, Demagio Mansell, Linda Hayes, Courtland Elias, Amanda Gonzalez, Mereno Scott, Ashantae Bryant, Jason Muniz, Raymond Geisel, William Forsling, Jon Miller, Michelle Tappouni, Holly King.

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Kimberly Hansen, Denise Ramsey, Scott Parker, Christian Berroa, Houston Needham, David Kovacs, Brent Corr, Bill Mills, Brice Burse, Christopher Vickery, Reese Henderson, and Mary Tappouni.

The ceremony culminated with ACE awarding \$17,400.00 in scholarships to its members heading off to college. The 2011 scholarship winners were:

<b><u>Scholarship Recipient</u></b>	<b><u>Scholarship Amount</u></b>
Brice Bursey	\$1,250.00
Jason Muniz	\$1,250.00
Raymond Geisel	\$1,250.00
Ashantae Bryant	\$1,250.00
Amanda Gonzalez	\$800.00
Christian Berroa	\$500.00
Russell Kopp	\$500.00
Brent Corr	\$1,250.00
Christopher Vickery	\$500.00
Linda Hayes	\$500.00
Jon Miller	\$1,000.00
Charmaine Ervin	\$1,000.00
William Forsling	\$1,500.00
Mereno Scott	\$1,250.00
Mercelin Etienne	\$1,000.00
Demagio Mansell	\$800.00
Courtland Elias	\$800.00
Jonathan Perkins	\$500.00
Houston Needhman	\$500.00

The 2011 scholarships bring the total scholarships awarded by the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc. to over \$61,000.00, since it began in 2006. The ACE program is currently offered at A. Phillip Randolph High School, Orange Park High School, and Englewood High School and has plans to expand to additional high schools.

Jacob C. Thurlow, of the Haskell Company, was one of the many mentors this year and the Mentor Team Leader at A. Phillip Randolph High School. At the ceremony he beamed with pride about the students he worked with:

The experience I have had with the ACE Mentor Program has been life changing. Each year it is a great to work with the students and watch them grow during the process. The end of the year presentations allow you to see what the students have learned. I am always amazed at what they create and the knowledge they express. In the five years I have participated in the program, I have had the opportunity to meet many amazing people, including students and other mentors. The program has helped me to grow personally as well, as a leader and a public speaker. It has truly been a great experience, one that I will never forget.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Demagio Mansell, Linda Hayes, Amanda Gonzalez, Zachary Polite, and Martel Rivers



LEFT TO RIGHT: Zachary Polite, Amanda Gonzalez, Demagio Mansell, Linda Hayes, and Martel Rivers



LEFT TO RIGHT: Alberto Bouzas, Sheamus Walsh. Seated, left to right: Natasha Vargas, Arnela Huskic, and Adela Sehic.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Aaron Graczyk, William Forsling, Gavin Fields, Anthony Daliz, Austin King



LEFT TO RIGHT: William Forsling, Anthony Daliz, Austin King, Aaron Graczyk, Gavin Fields