



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

For Immediate Release

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Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds Addresses Area Students at ACE Mentoring Awards Banquet

The ACE Mentor Program of Iowa hosted students, parents, industry professionals, media, and the Lieutenant Governor at their end of the year awards ceremony on March 12, 2013 at the Science Center of Iowa. The Lt. Governor gave remarks to the audience of approximately 300 people highlighting the STEM initiative. The ACE Mentor Program is one of the many programs that further STEM development in the metro area.



Pictured above, front row, l to r: Matt Cole, Architect with Brooks Borg Skiles, Seth Elgin, Project Manager with Graham Construction, Morgan North, Ankeny HS, Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, Josh Ridgely, Architect with SVPA; Ross Nickey, DM Lincoln HS, Nicole Bramow, Ankeny HS, Grace Ansah, DM Roosevelt HS, and Jill Boetger, Landscape Architect with Confluence. Back row, l to r: Joseph Bahnsen, DM East HS, John Gilman, GEAR UP Iowa, Jeff Magner, Engineer with Terracon and David Unick, Architect with Brooks Borg Skiles.

The highlight of the event was the design presentations by each ACE team. This season 75 students from 11 metro-area schools formed 4 teams with volunteer professionals from the architecture, construction and engineering industries. Three teams of students were given the challenge to design a new Fine Arts Pavilion located on the State Fair Grounds. This building would house galleries for art, sculpture, and photography, plus classroom space, gallery storage and a catering kitchen. The designs also featured an outdoor sculpture garden.

The students divided up in to groups representing architecture, construction, and engineering. Under the guidance of their mentors, students developed solutions relating to architecture, landscape architecture, site work, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering. They also determined a construction schedule, building costs, and a site utilization plan. This year, students also got to participate in a mock bid in an effort to demonstrate the realities of bidding projects in the real world.

A fourth ACE team—consisting of 8 students and 5 mentors—developed a mock Modular Education Addition for submission to the ACE/Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) national design competition. This team was challenged to use their personal experiences of learning in ‘portable classrooms’ to develop “a transportable addition (or temporary structure) which will function as a learning space for students—without leaving the impression or feeling that it is second rate and/or undesirable.” The team presentation boards were submitted for judging by a national panel of design and construction industry leaders. Their entry has been selected as one of three finalists. The team will travel to Washington, DC on April 30 to compete for top national honors.

About ACE: The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa is an affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program of America. Since 2006, over 375 Des Moines-area high school students have been introduced to the integrated construction industry. Further, through the generous donations by local architecture, construction, and engineering firms, The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa has awarded 40 students a total of \$79,000 in scholarships to further their ACE-related education.

The ACE Mentor Program of America, established in 1995 in New York, currently has a presence in over 200 cities across the US, including affiliates in Des Moines and in Mason City, IA. This year alone over 8,000 students and almost 5,000 mentors are participating in the program; 70% are minorities and 40% are young women. For more information on the ACE Mentor Program of America visit <http://www.acementor.org/>

ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa

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