



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

For Immediate Release

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**High School Students Design Their Futures
Through The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa**

The ACE Mentor Program is an after-school program that gives high school students a hands-on introduction to Architecture, Construction (management and trades), and Engineering. At weekly meetings, student teams work directly with design and construction professionals to design a mock project, tour local construction sites, and visit architectural, engineering, and construction offices. This is a great opportunity for the students to become engaged, excited, and enlightened about career opportunities in the design and construction industry.

This year's design challenge was to redesign the currently shared Drake University/Des Moines Rowing Club Boathouse on the Des Moines River. Design criteria and construction budget to design within was given to the participants. This facility will then be home to the Des Moines Rowing Club. The facility will include restrooms, locker rooms, boat bays, an office, social hall, kitchenette, and patio.

Locally, this program involves 118 students from metro-area high schools and 57 mentors from local architecture, construction, and engineering firms. On March 8, 2016 the student teams will present their final proposals for this year's project to their peers, parents, teachers, mentors, construction industry leaders, and press at the DMACC FFA Enrichment Center located at 2006 So. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, IA from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The ACE Mentor Program is having a very real impact on these students' futures as Architects, Contractors, and Engineers. Interview opportunities with participating mentors and students will be arranged upon request.

Speaking will be Holly Pohlmeier, an Associate Architect at INVISION Architecture in Des Moines. She began interning at INVISION in the summer of 2013, and was able to start full time upon graduation. She graduated from Iowa State in May 2015 with degrees in Architecture and Environmental Studies. She is actively involved in the profession by pursuing her license, volunteering her time for the AIA Iowa Public Relations Committee, and is a participating member in Iowa Women in Architecture. In high school she was involved in the ACE mentor program on the Des Moines South team, and she returned to the program as a mentor beginning in the 2014 season. In her free time Holly likes to travel and cheer on Iowa State's football and basketball teams.

About ACE: *The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa (ACE C-IA) is an affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program of America. Since 2006, ACE C-IA has introduced over 600 Des Moines-area high school students to the integrated construction industry. Further, through the generous donations by local architecture, construction, and engineering firms, ACE C-IA has awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships to further their ACE-related education. The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa was recognized as an exemplary STEM Program by Governor Branstad's STEM Advisory Council in 2012.*

The ACE Mentor Program of America, established in 1995 in New York, currently has a presence in over 200 cities across the US. The ACE Mentor Program of America has received the 2014 Institute Honors for Collaborative Achievement from the American Institute of Architects, and the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Math and Engineering Mentoring.

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