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### **Five ACE Graduates Earn U.S. Green Building Council Scholarships to Attend the Greenbuild Conference**

**STAMFORD, CT** – October 28, 2009 – Five college students who recently graduated from the ACE Mentor Program will join more than 25,000 sustainable design and construction professionals attending the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in Phoenix, Arizona on November 11-13.

Through a competitive process, USGBC has awarded the ACE graduates scholarships covering the conference registration and travel expenses. The students are:

**Kim Dai**, a freshman at University at Buffalo, State University of New York studying architecture, is a product of the ACE Program of Greater New York City.

**Pedro Gonzalez**, a University of Houston freshman studying architecture, participated in the ACE Mentor Program of Houston Texas.

**Leean Orama**, a senior at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, is majoring in engineering technology with a concentration in concrete industries management. He graduated from the ACE Mentor Program of New Jersey.

**Darpan Patel**, a Philadelphia University freshman intending to major in architecture, graduated from the ACE Mentor Program of Eastern Pennsylvania.

**Tai Van**, a freshman at Broward College (Florida) intending to major in construction management, is affiliated with the ACE Mentor Program of South Florida.

USGBC initiated the scholarship program this year in order to engage populations underrepresented in the green building industry. ACE and several other non-profit groups were invited to submit nominations for the scholarships. Only individuals within strictly defined income limitations were eligible to receive scholarships.

**ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc**

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USGBC will convene a special press conference for the ACE graduates and scholarship winners from other organizations on Thursday, November 12. The press conference will take place from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. in room 126B in the North Building of the Phoenix Convention Center.

The Turner Construction Company, a major ACE sponsor, will feature the students at a special reception that it is organizing on the evening before the official start of the conference.

The scholarship recipients are expected to attend at least seven of the more than 100 educational sessions and tours at Greenbuild and otherwise to participate fully in the world's largest sustainable design conference.

Following the conference, the ACE graduates must prepare a report, in a format of their choosing, explaining what they learned, and they must establish a relationship with the USGBC chapter in their area. As a continuing scholarship benefit, USGBC will provide the emerging green builders free access to selected on-line courses.

Upon their return from Greenbuild, the ACE Program requires the five graduates to communicate their experience and new knowledge to some of the ACE mentor/student teams in their home affiliate.

### **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 especially focuses on reaching students who 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).

### **About the U.S. Green Building Council**

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 131,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to soar to \$60 billion by 2010. The USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students. For additional information, please visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

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