



# Building for the Future

ENR's Annual ACE Mentor Yearbook 2012

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ACE MENTOR PROGRAM  
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

**Skanska**



# A Letter from the ACE Mentor Co-Chairs



Charles H. Thornton



Thomas Gilbane, Jr.

**What a year!** Presidential honors and a program restructuring sparked the biggest changes in the ACE Mentor Program since we began over 15 years ago. Certainly, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring—the highest award for mentoring in these fields, along with the \$25,000 prize and the accompanying national recognition—is appropriate acknowledgement of the great success of ACE and the wonderful work done by ACE mentors across the country.

Mentors are the heart of our organization, helping students understand the wonderful opportunities in our industry, while they meet and work with industry peers, and help fill the talent pool of the future.

In an effort to better respond to the needs of our affiliates, ACE National moved to restructure the organization, putting more focus in the field to support our 62 affiliates. With John Strock, our new executive director leading the way with the help of three regional directors—Stephanie Ercolini (Western Region), Jack Tipton (Southeastern Region), and Diana Eidenshink (Northeastern Region)—we are forging ahead.

Our regional directors are doing a great job sharing best practices, helping new affiliates get started, as well as helping existing affiliates grow and serve more students. Feedback from the field is very positive. With help from regional directors, affiliates are able to expand programs, connect with other community and higher education organizations, and build scholarship opportunities. With continued fundraising success, we will expand the number of regional directors in the near future.

Of course, the real winners are the young people. Over 8,000 students participate in ACE during the year. A majority of participants come from minority groups and/or from families of limited means. Yet, through ACE mentoring, over 90% of ACE high school graduates enter a postsecondary institution, many focused on the architecture, engineering or construction fields. We're doing something right! Thank you to all mentors, sponsors and special program contributors who helped make the ACE Mentor Program a success this year. We look forward to working with you in 2012-2013.

Charles H. Thornton  
ACE Founder/Co-Chairman  
Charles H. Thornton & Company

Thomas Gilbane, Jr.  
ACE Co-Chairman  
Gilbane Building Company

## Molto Bene! Parking Garage with Italian Twist Wins CIRT-ACE Design Competition

A record 39 entries from 24 ACE Affiliates across the country competed for top honors at the sixth annual CIRT-ACE Design Competition sponsored by the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) and ACE. The theme of the competition was to promote innovation in the design and construction community in order to improve the quality of life, while understanding issues and challenges unique to the industry.

Teams were required to submit an RFP for one of the following project options/challenges:

- A Parking Garage "Outside the Box"
- Waterfront/Riverside Park
- History Museum

Coral Park High School in Miami, Fla., within the ACE South Florida Affiliate, took first prize with a clever design interpretation of a parking garage. The parking garage incorporated a variety of services on the first floor including a gasoline station, childcare center, salon, convenience store, car wash, police sub-station, Miami Heat memorabilia store and other retail spaces. Above the eight stories of parking, the students featured an open, Italian-themed movie theater/restaurant with a park/nature atmosphere that they called Cielo-Vista. Mentored by 13 Turner Construction employees over the course of 16 weeks, the students developed the parking garage concept in Autodesk Revit.

Rhonda Wimberly, community affairs coordinator with Turner Construction in South Florida, an ACE Mentor participant since 2006 and 2012 ACE Mentor Coordinator, says, "I'm most proud of the students' creativity, their use of new technology (BIM), their understanding of the design/construct process and especially their positive attitude throughout the 16-week program." As the winner, the team received a \$5,000 prize for the South Florida Affiliate.

The ACE Washington, D.C. team from Washington-Lee High School came in second with Anacostia-Capital Waterfront entry with the ACE Los Angeles/Orange

County Affiliate from Century High School in Santa Ana, Calif., coming in third for their California Air & Space Museum project.

Robert E. Alger, CEO and president of The Lane Construction Corp. and chief judge in the competition, says, "The competition this year was the best since I have been attending the event. The caliber of the presentations and the preparation that the students went through was inspiring and gives credence that ACE is making a difference in the lives of so many young people today."

Besides chief judge Alger, the CIRT-ACE panel of judges included Peter J. Davoren (president and CEO, Turner Construction Co.); M. James Gorrie (CEO and president, Brasfield & Gorrie); Patrick MacLeamy (CEO, HOK Group); Edward McSpedon (EVP, HNTB Corp.); Blake Murillo (CEO, Psomas); Elisabeth Broome (managing editor, Architectural Record); and Mark A. Casso (president, CIRT).

Patrick MacLeamy, FAIA, chairman and chief executive officer of HOK, CIRT's newly elected national chairman and judge, says, "All submittals were impressive in their ingenuity and

enthusiasm. The highlight, however, was meeting the students in person and hearing them speak about their experience in the ACE Mentor Program."

In addition to the finalists, six other teams were recognized as Honorable Mention/First Runner-Up or Second Runner-Up in the three different design challenges or options:

- History Museum Challenge – ACE Greater Bridgeport (First Runner-Up); ACE Connecticut-New Haven/Team-1 (Second Runner-Up)

- Parking Garage "Outside the Box" Challenge – ACE Mentor Program of Central Florida/Orlando (First Runner-Up); ACE San Francisco Bay Area-Peninsula One/Team-1 (Second Runner-Up)

- Waterfront/Riverside Park Challenge – ACE Nashville/Team-5 (First Runner-Up); ACE Greater New York City Chapter/Team-8 (Second Runner-Up)

The special Best Presentation Board award was given to the ACE Frederick, Maryland Affiliate for the student's Gateway Preservation Park boards. ■



ACE students from Coral Park High School in Miami, Fla., pose with their mentors and the first prize award for their clever design interpretation of a parking garage.

**NCCER**

**Thorton  
Tomasetti**





## Presidential Honor Underscores ACE Mentor's Year of Excellence

**The ACE Mentor Program** had its best year yet, mentoring approximately 8,000 students in over 1,600 high schools nationwide and granting over \$1.5 million in scholarships—all while garnering top honors from the White House.

President Barack Obama awarded the ACE Mentor Program the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, the nation's highest award for mentoring. The science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education-based award recognizes the crucial role that mentoring plays in the academic and personal development of students studying science and engineering, particularly those who belong to groups that are underrepresented in these fields.

Charles H. Thornton, founder and chairman of ACE, says, "It was certainly a great honor and proof positive that our program is the best of the best when it comes to high school mentoring programs. We are scalable and sustainable, funded almost entirely by the industry we represent. That's something that most education programs cannot claim."

The Presidential Award acknowledges ACE Mentor's success with a \$25,000 prize from the National Science Foundation to advance mentoring efforts. ACE established an Exemplary Mentor Award program with the prize money.

### Exceptional enthusiasm

Through the Exemplary Mentor Award program, ACE looked to recognize five exceptional mentors. The affiliates of the winning mentors would each receive a \$5,000 prize to be used for student scholarships named after the mentor.

In January 2012, twenty-eight (28) of ACE's sixty-two (62) affiliates nominated one of their mentors for the award. The affiliates were small and large, established and emerging. The nominees were architects, engineers and construction managers with local, regional and national firms, some of which are ACE sponsors. Each affiliate told a compelling story about its nominee.

Nominations, which included a required 750-word essay and an optional testimonial from a student plus any

materials reflecting the nominee's work, were uniformly inspiring.

Ed Worthy, the education director for the ACE Mentor Program, says, "The jury, composed of three members of the ACE National Affiliates Council (NAC) members and five ACE national staff, struggled to select the five winners. They felt that all the nominees are winners, a handful being slightly better than the others."

Jury members independently scored the nominations on three criteria: 1) quality and extent of nominee's mentoring activities; 2) nominee's impact on students; and 3) impact on other mentors and affiliate. Scores for the top 10 nominees fell within a close range. The jury based its final decision solely on the scoring, but it felt that all the nominees deserved recognition. (Any jury member associated with an affiliate that nominated a mentor abstained from voting for that nominee.)

ACE's five Exemplary Mentors for 2012 are:

- James Barnes, AIA, professor of architecture, Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island Affiliate
- Bryan Burke, P.E., founder, Millennium Resource Engineering, Frederick, Maryland Affiliate
- Kelly Cantley, director of business development, Bozzuto Construction, Baltimore, Maryland Affiliate
- Alexander Chan, project architect, Studio Agoos Lovera, Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate (Philadelphia)
- Jacob Thurlow, project manager, The Haskell Company, Northeast Florida Affiliate (Jacksonville)

Worthy adds, "All 28 nominees reflect the dedication and effectiveness of ACE's pool of 5,000 mentors. Their contributions to ACE and to the students they serve are enormous and should be celebrated at both the national and local levels."

ACE is committed to continuing the Exemplary Mentor Program using its own funds.

### ACE, AARP and more

In a program first, Jane Pauley profiled Charles Thornton about his founding of ACE on *Your Life Calling with Jane Pauley*, a monthly series produced by



President Obama congratulates Charles Thornton on ACE Mentor's success.

AARP and featured monthly on NBC's *TODAY* show.

On the show, Dr. Thornton said mentoring is in his blood. "My father was a bricklayer. He hired and taught local kids the trades. We founded ACE with the idea to excite young people about the possibilities in architecture, engineering and construction."

More than a decade old, ACE has graduated over 100,000 high school students from the program and granted over \$12 million in college scholarships—numbers that are sure to rise considerably in coming years with visibility that extends all the way to the White House.

John Strock, executive director of ACE, says, "ACE has gone through a period of great change over the last year and we are excited for our new direction. The ACE National Executive Committee and Board of Directors are more engaged and enthused than ever, leading the organization into the future with our new strategic plan. As the only industry-driven and industry-supported career immersion program in the country, ACE will continue its path of success, sustainability and growth. It is through the hard work and dedication of our volunteer mentors and the support of our growing list of sponsors that we have accomplished so much this past year." ■

## Profiles of 2012 ACE Exemplary Mentors



### **James Barnes, AIA | Professor of Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**

A four-year mentor with the Rhode Island Affiliate, James Barnes is the catalyst that keeps the Providence-based affiliate's program and curriculum growing and improving. In overhauling the affiliate's curriculum, he translated his RISD teaching experience into a disciplined yet intelligible set of modules suitable for high school students. Barnes oversees the entire Providence program consisting of 15 mentors and 40 students grouped into several small teams. His rigorous schedule, clear goals and engaging hands-on activities stimulate mentors and students alike and have led to a dramatic decrease in the student attrition rate over four years, from 75% to 40%. He also built a bridge between the affiliate and RISD, resulting in new mentors and scholarship opportunities for the students.



### **Bryan Burke, P.E. | Founder, Millennium Resource Engineering**

Known in Frederick as "Mr. ACE," Bryan Burke has been an active mentor with the Frederick, Maryland Affiliate for the last six years. In his second year as a mentor, he created an advanced, technical program exclusively for returning second-year students. The students were so excited that Burke went on to create an even more advanced curriculum for third-year students that builds on their technical growth, leadership skills and independent thinking. After students leave the ACE program, Burke remains in touch, guiding them along their path to becoming professionals and even ACE mentors. He has created other ACE teams in Frederick and served as an executive officer on the affiliate's board, including chairperson for two terms.



### **Kelly Cantley | Director of Business Development, Bozzuto Construction**

An eight-year mentoring veteran, Kelly Cantley has served the Baltimore ACE Affiliate as a dedicated mentor and a member of the board of directors, which she currently heads. She helped establish the ACE program in South Florida in 2004 and joined the Baltimore Affiliate in 2005. In the summer of 2011, Cantley led efforts to create ACE Baltimore's first internship program, which operated as a partnership with the Mayor's Office, Youth Works and the Academy for College and Career Exploration (ACCE). She recruited local companies and matched them with 15 ACCE students for the six-week internship. She regularly organizes a Development Day, which includes OSHA 10 Training, resume writing, interview skills, communication drills, and a college campus tour, among other activities.



### **Alexander Chan | Project Architect, Studio Agoos Lovera**

A five-year mentor with the Eastern Pennsylvania ACE Affiliate, Alexander Chan brings a student-focused approach to team meetings. He concentrates on what students take away from each session, directing them to consider issues through wide and narrow lenses. As a result, his teams consistently bring new and creative designs to their projects. One year, for example, his team constructed a model out of found materials to highlight the project's green design. In addition to mentoring, Chan established the Young Mentors and ACE Alumni Committee for the affiliate to promote communication among mentors about best practices and reconnect ACE alumni to ACE mentors. Chan's service to the affiliate expanded early in 2012 when he was elected to the board of directors.



### **Jacob Thurlow | Project Manager, The Haskell Company**

A six-year mentor with the Northeast Florida Affiliate, Jacob Thurlow has led an ACE team in a high school whose student body is one of the city's most economically challenged. Working at the school for over six years, he has gained the trust of school administrators and the admiration of students as evidenced by their retention in the program. Of the eight scholarship applicants last year from his team, five had participated in the program for four years. He mentors ACE alumni through college or post-high school training, with the result that two alumni returned to become mentors on his team. Thurlow has created estimating/scheduling and surveying exercises, and he has devised a two-track curriculum to maintain the interest of returning students.



**EMCOR**

# **New School of Architecture**



# ACE Mentor Regional Report

The excitement and dedication of the nearly 5,000 mentors is most evident in the creative programs initiated by ACE regional directors and affiliates across the country.

## ACE WEST

### Purr-fect Innovation

The ACE Western Region includes 12 affiliates in all western states from Colorado to California and Arizona to Washington and Hawaii.

Stephanie Ercolini, western regional director for ACE, says, "We've had a great year throughout our region with support from building and construction firms of all sizes and services. I'm particularly proud of the activities initiated by the affiliates in California this year."

In 2011, six California affiliates formed the ACE California Council made up of one representative from each affiliate to share best practices. One idea that came out of the Council is the ACE Summer Camp, a one-week intense overnight camp to guide high school students through the design-build process.

The camp was paid for with an \$11,000 grant from the California Network of Earthquake Engineers and a \$5,000 grant from Teichert Construction. Each California affiliate



High school students from around California attended a week-long camp, hosted at Sacramento State University, to put the integrated design-build process to work.

was invited to send two rising seniors to the camp—all expenses paid, including transportation. Based on the knowledge and confidence they gained, they were expected to serve as student leaders in their affiliates when they returned home for their senior year in high school.

Thirteen students from the Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego

and San Francisco, California affiliates were selected for the week-long camp hosted at Sacramento State University. Five college students recruited from various universities around the state by the Associated General Contractors Construction Education Foundation volunteered to work with the ACE students throughout the camp.

In this inaugural camp, the students were tasked with building "cat condos" for a local animal shelter and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"Our camp counselors and team leaders were incredible. The students developed such a close rapport with them," says Ercolini. "They were inspiring role models who taught the students a lot about the construction industry."

Of the 13 students, now all graduating seniors, 11 have opted to study a construction-related curriculum in college. One particular student received a full scholarship to Syracuse University to study electrical engineering.

Based on the success of the inaugural program, the ACE California Council is planning a similar camp this summer. Hosted at California State University, Long Beach, 27 ACE students will focus on integrated design-build of doghouses for an SPCA shelter in Los Angeles. ■



At this inaugural camp, students built cat condos that were donated to a local animal shelter.

**AECOM**



## ACE SOUTHEAST

## Mentor Success Gains Momentum

**The ACE Southeast Region**, made up of states south of Kentucky and east of Texas, expanded from 18 to 21 affiliates, with the addition of Tampa and Ft. Myers, Fla., and Charleston, S.C.

Jack Tipton, southeast regional director for ACE, says, “Our growth and support this last year is best illustrated by our excited students, the all-important mentors and creative ideas from affiliates throughout the region. Abel Villareal typifies all that ACE mentors hope to achieve in any given year.”

A four-year ACE student from Orange Park High School in Jacksonville, Fla., Abel went from being a mere participant to a college-bound ACE team leader and presenter—thanks in large part to a particularly dedicated mentor who took the time to talk with him about his interests and career possibilities.

Tom Grogan, chief structural engineer with The Haskell Company and mentor for the ACE of Northeast Florida Affiliate, says, “He barely participated in his first year with ACE. By his senior year, he was

a team leader and his performance during the final presentation was one of the best I have ever seen. On an ACE-sponsored tour of the University of North Florida, Abel decided that he wanted to go to college and study structural engineering.”

Mentors at affiliates throughout the Southeast have similar success stories. Many are also finding new ways to get involved with the community and create opportunities for young people. For example, beyond mentoring over 100 students a year, the Charlotte Affiliate in North Carolina recently joined the local mayor’s youth employment program that provides paid and unpaid internships to students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district and the local Academy of Engineering to increase the number of student internships. The Charlotte Affiliate has been asked to exhibit at the Youth Employment and Civic Education village for the Democratic National Convention in September. Similarly, in West Palm Beach, Fla., the ACE team in conjunction with Seminole Ridge High



**Abel Villareal receives a scholarship from the ACE Mentor of Northeast Florida Affiliate.**

School and other volunteers are building a Habitat for Humanity house that will be presented to a returning military veteran.

Tipton says, “Our mentors are so engaged throughout the region that many former ACE students are returning to give back. ACE alumni, Mercelin Etienne will graduate next summer from the University of North Florida with a degree in construction management. He has served as a mentor for three years while attending college. Our mentors know that the time and energy they invest today returns tenfold in years to come.” ■

# FMI Corp



## ACE NORTHEAST

## Energy and Excitement Bring Regional Growth

The **ACE Northeast Region** includes 20 affiliates including all the states on the northern East Coast from Maine to Maryland plus Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Diana T. Eidenshink, new ACE northeast regional director, says, "We've had a great year of growth. Many affiliates had a record number of students and mentors. Delaware, one of the newest affiliates in the region, had 34 students participate in two high schools in just their second year. Our success is in large part due to our incredible mentors."

In fact, four of the six 2012 Exemplary Mentors of the Year came from the Northeast Region. The mentors include James Barnes (Rhode Island Affiliate), Bryan Burke (Frederick, Maryland Affiliate), Kelly Cantley (Baltimore, Maryland Affiliate) and Alexander Chan (Eastern Penn. Affiliate). Each of the winning mentors

now has a scholarship in their name.

With such outstanding leadership, it's no surprise that we have excited our students. Beyond commitment to the 16-week ACE program, our students are interested in pushing the boundaries of the program. For instance, ACE National would like to incorporate the concept of universal design (unlimited access for all people with and without disabilities) in the ACE curriculum.



The Philadelphia ACE team visited Drexel University.

As a precursor to the ACE/AARP concept, two students from the Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate were given a special assignment by ACE National to research the concept of universal design in the context of a typical Cape Cod home. The students presented their project boards to the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the CIRT-ACE National Competition. Consequently, ACE National is currently in talks with AARP to develop a joint universal design program.

Eidenshink says, "The energy and excitement that comes from our students and mentors gives us the momentum to further strengthen our region and introduce some new initiatives that will connect young people to the community and the construction industry." ■

# Railworks

**Gilbane**

## ACE CHICAGO

## Region Adds Summer Enrichment

**With 179 mentors and** support from a number of sponsor organizations, the ACE Chicago Affiliate hosts 200 students from 34 citywide high schools (primarily Chicago Public Schools) annually and awarded \$103,000 in scholarships in 2011-2012.

Pat O'Connell, executive director for the ACE Chicago Affiliate, says, "Ninety-three percent of our students are minorities and an equal number are from moderate to low-income families as measured by their school's participation in the Title I Free/Reduced Lunch program. A significant number of our students come from non-English speaking households and the majority are the first ones in their family to finish high school and aspire to higher education."

Clearly, the ACE Chicago Affiliate is providing an extremely valuable enhancement and enrichment to Chicago students—which extends beyond the

traditional school year.

Every summer since 2009, the Chicago ACE Affiliate has partnered with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Dept. of College and Career Preparation to host a community design-build studio, an innovative program that grew out of a 2009 Legacy Project with the American Society of Landscape Architects. The seven-week ACE Design-Build Workshop is a student educational program focused on career exposure and community building through hands-on experiences in design and construction.

Through the program, students design, build and deliver a useful project to a real client (on time and on budget) under the guidance of industry professionals. Past clients have included a



**The ACE community design-build workshop provides students hands-on design and construction experience.**

west-side community garden, a non-profit neighborhood developer, and the Chicago Dept. of Transportation. Students work with various tools, including pencil sketches, CAD software programs and an array of construction tools. They must interview the client, complete relevant research, propose a design solution and consider several construction delivery methods. The construction phase provides an opportunity to witness the

# API Group



A team of students helps construct the Ujima community garden, which includes a rainwater-harvesting garden shed, on the west side of Chicago.

results of their design decisions.

This year's workshop will enroll 20 prior-year ACE students and includes two teaching assistants (current college students and alumni of the ACE program), three ACE instructors and one assisting CPS faculty person.

Matt Snoap, the workshop director, veteran Chicago ACE Affiliate mentor and licensed architect, says, "Students tell us they feel more engaged in the design and construction process and with the community. They see that their ideas can have an impact in the community; and all the while, they are learning real lessons about the construction industry. We'd like them to walk away with an understanding of the design process, and a better idea of all the people and professions involved in making a project happen. It's the perfect combination of learning, giving back and having fun."

After successful completion, students will be awarded a \$1,000 college/university scholarship from the ACE Chicago Affiliate. ■

# CON Industry

**Turner**





## STAR STUDENTS

## Joseph's Jumpstart

**As a high school** senior at Overton High School in Nashville, Tenn., Joseph Cole knew he wanted to work in the construction industry, perhaps as an architect or maybe as an engineer. At the recommendation of his high school drafting teacher, Joseph signed up for Nashville's inaugural ACE Mentor Program—and the rest is history.

After completing his senior year, Joseph went on to earn his degree in Architecture from the University of Tennessee and now works for Thomas, Miller and Partners (TMP) in Brentwood, Tenn. He says, "I'm where I am today in large part because of the help and guidance from my ACE mentors. Beyond the introduction to the profession, they provided guidance about how to apply to architecture programs and portfolios as well as internship and testing requirements. Most importantly, they helped me understand the critical role

that architects play in the community."

Joseph takes his responsibilities to the community very seriously. While earning his degree, he volunteered with a number of organizations and ultimately earned the Chancellor's Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award, the Chancellor's highest student award within the University of Tennessee system for improving diversity throughout the campus. He was instrumental in reactivating a National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) chapter to support minority architecture and interior design students. He served as vice president and president for NOMAS. He was also active in INROADS, an organization established to develop and place talented underserved youth in business and industry, and prepare them for corporate and community leadership.

Once he joined TMP, Joseph quickly volunteered to represent the firm as a mentor in the ACE program, becoming the first person to complete the ACE program in Nashville as a mentee and serve as a mentor in the Nashville



**Former ACE student Joseph Cole is now an architect and speaker for ACE Mentor.**

Affiliate. For the last four years, he has had an active role as a mentor in various student groups in the Nashville area.

Joseph concludes, "Many high school students don't have role models in the construction industry. ACE provides those connections. I'm proud to be a part of the program that is helping develop a new generation of construction professionals."

Joseph is speaking at the 2012 ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO in Phoenix, Ariz., about the ACE Mentor Program and the growing interest from young people in sustainable, landscape design. ■

# Middle Tn. State

## STAR STUDENTS

## Caitlin's Calling

**From a young age**, Caitlin Balthrop Moffitt and her twin sister, Keely, were on track to move into a science or engineering-related career. They were both in the Project Lead the Way engineering program at Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet High School for the Health Sciences and Engineering in Nashville, Tenn. They also had a strong role model in their father, an engineer with Nashville Metro Water Services Dept.

They joined the ACE Mentor Program in their junior year of high school to help narrow their choices and find the career path that most excited them. Caitlin recalls, "ACE gave us the opportunity to work on a full project and see how all of the different players (architects, engineers and contractors) contributed."

Through the program, Caitlin and Keely's ACE group designed a resort space with timeshares, condos and retail spaces. They met with the "owner" on the project, went through the design phases



**Former ACE student Caitlin Balthrop Moffitt recently received the Gen. Robert Neyland Young Engineer of the Year Award.**

with the architect and the engineer, and learned about constructability and the construction process with the contractor.

"Our group even marketed the resort to potential clients through brochures at the presentation and awards banquet," says Caitlin. "Through

the experience, I fell in love with the building construction process from conceptualization to design to build."

After graduation, Caitlin earned a Bachelor's and Master's of Science in Civil Engineering from Tennessee Technological University. After a few years in industry, Caitlin became assistant professor and faculty lead for Civil and Construction Engineering Technology programs at Chattanooga State Community College to develop and support curriculum that meets industry expectations and needs. She also works to serve students through classroom instruction and academic advising and the college through serving on committees and building relationships with local industry and universities, including the ACE Mentor Program. Caitlin received the Gen. Robert Neyland Young Engineer of the Year Award for her outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and her community. Caitlin recently joined the ACE Mentor Chattanooga Affiliate board of directors. ■

Note: Caitlin's sister Keely is a civil engineer serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.

# Impact

**Zurich**

## Realizing a Positive Impact on Young People, Community And an Industry



**Colin Terras**  
Regional Vice  
President  
PCL  
Construction

PCL Construction has always had a passion for educating youth, giving back to the community and bringing awareness to the building and construction industry. ACE

provides the opportunity to realize all three of these interests while perpetuating workforce development.

We're one of the many beneficiaries of the ACE Mentor Program, with a growing number of former ACE students currently employed as interns, construction managers and engineers. Thai Nguyen is representative of this group. Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, Nguyen's family was forced to flee their home in South Vietnam. His family became U.S. citizens and moved to Los Angeles, where Thai became a part of the inaugural ACE Mentor class at John Marshall High School in 2002. He earned a degree in construction management and interned with PCL. Today, Thai is a PCL engineer... and an ACE mentor.

Thai is one of thousands of young people across the country who has found a passion for our industry through ACE. Through this program, mentors are having a measurable and positive impact on students, helping foster a new generation of talent that is excited, creative and focused. At the same time, these dedicated employee mentors are building relationships with other industry professionals. It's a win-win-win for students, the community and our company.

### STAR STUDENTS

## Raul's Reflections

**Raul Martinez is athletic, bright...** and loves pizza. In his junior year at Franklin High School in Los Angeles, Calif., Raul took time out of his busy schedule that included football (defensive lineman) and a part-time job to sign up for the ACE Mentor Program.

"I thought I might want to be an engineer based on the little I knew about the profession, so I joined ACE to get more insight and they promised pizza," recalls Raul. "From the first meeting, I was caught. For just a couple hours a week, professionals from each field came to our school and talked to us about their jobs, letting us know the good, the bad and the ugly. They took time out of the busy day to come and get us excited about these fields."

As a first-generation American citizen, Raul hadn't had the opportunity to talk to engineers. He adds, "My parents didn't have an opportunity to go to school, but they wanted more for me and my siblings. They are supportive and always encourage us to do the best we can. Through them, I learned about hard work and responsibility. Through ACE, I learned about career possibilities that fit my interests."

After his first year with ACE, Raul was selected as one of 15 high school juniors in California to attend the first ACE Summer Camp, a one-week camp designed to guide high school students through the design-build process. Raul returned to ACE for his senior year, where he took on more leadership in the development of a project and final presentation.

Through the process, he found his passion. "Electricity amazes me! The way it works, the way it can power a light bulb to an entire city. Electricity is something we all need," says Raul. "I want to make a positive impact in the world by making it accessible to all."

He'll get a chance to pursue that dream very soon. Raul received a full scholarship to study electrical engineering at Syracuse University, becoming the first person in his family to go to college.

Looking back at his ACE experiences, Raul reflects, "The mentors are amazing, helpful and provide so much information and guidance, especially if you're interested in a related field. The field trips are both fun and educational. And there's almost always pizza!" ■



Raul (center) and his classmates at Franklin High School in Los Angeles, Calif., brainstorm ideas for their end-of-the-year final project design concept.

**Stantec**



# HOK

# Valley Crest

## Mentoring Our Way To a Homegrown Talent Pool



**Rich Allen**  
Chief Operating  
Officer  
Stantec

As we come out of the recession, our industry faces a lack of the talent necessary to address the huge infrastructure needs in North America. We simply can't survive by

recruiting from each other. We need new talent.

ACE Mentor is the only program I'm aware of that has industry-wide traction to address the problem. The program has been around for some time now, and there are hundreds of former ACE students who are pursuing careers in architecture, engineering and construction. Nobody else has that kind of track record.

Like many other companies, Stantec takes part in several STEM-like programs to introduce young people to the industry. For instance, we participate in the Leadership Initiatives for Teaching and Technology (LIFT2) summer program for math and science teachers to inspire student interest in design-related careers. ACE takes a program like LIFT2 to an entirely new level.

If you're still not convinced, take a look at the CIRT-ACE Design Competition presentations. I'm always impressed with the poise that high school students demonstrate. That's why we remain engaged with the program at the national and regional levels, remain active on ACE's board, continue giving financial support for scholarships and support our mentors. The only way to get a solution to the dwindling labor issue is a long-term committed effort. There's no reason to recruit talent from around the globe when much of it can—and should be—homegrown.

**STV -NY**

**PCL**



## ACE is the Optimal Learning Environment For Students ... and Mentors



**Marcos Diaz Gonzalez**  
Vice President  
Global Program  
Management  
AECOM  
Board Member  
ACE New York

For the last five years, the ACE Mentor Program has been one of the pillars of AECOM's corporate social responsibility strategy. Through the program, we have a direct and positive influence on high school students—while

creating an equally positive growth opportunity for our mentors.

ACE is a great incubator of team building and leadership development for both. On a collective basis, we give students the opportunity to work with a multidisciplinary team of mentors and develop a complex project, offering great exposure to our professions and to the students'

individual interests and strengths. At the same time, mentors gain invaluable skills. If you can manage 20 high school students, you can manage just about anything. Bottom line: enthusiastic, collaborative students help raise the standard of the profession, which helps AECOM and other firms identify great employees and future employees. Through ACE, we can develop the future leaders of our industry, whether student or mentor.

I wish I had had an ACE-like opportunity when I was in high school. I am glad AECOM is able to do its part in helping a new generation of future professionals in our industry. There simply could not be a better match between our aspirations and goals as a company and ACE's mission to introduce young people to the industry.

# Mary- land

## Mentoring Makes Good Business Sense



**Murray Savage**  
CEO  
Professional  
Service  
Industries, Inc.  
(PSI)  
ACE Mentor  
Program  
National Board  
of Directors/  
Treasurer

PSI has been a proud national sponsor of the ACE Mentor Program for several years. As an industry-leading engineering, testing and consulting firm, PSI believes it is important to invest in the future of our industry.

Moreover, the ACE Mentor Program provides PSI a great avenue to impact the next generation of workforce talent.

Several of PSI's offices are engaged in the ACE Mentor Program with staff participating as mentors and contributors to the program. The opportunity

to present students real-world challenges and work situations in a collaborative and learning environment benefits not only the students but the mentors as well. ACE exposes students to real-world projects in a real work environment resulting in an invaluable hands-on education and gives mentors the chance to teach and share their knowledge and experience. Additionally, involvement with ACE at both the national and local level presents PSI with opportunities to network and build relationships with other industry leaders and decision-makers.

Put simply, PSI's sponsorship and active participation in ACE makes good business sense by giving back to our industry, positively influencing young people and involving our staff with other industry leaders.

## Take the Initiative, Develop a Dream



**Greg Dunkle**  
Senior Vice  
President  
Delaware  
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Building Co.

This past spring, mentors from Gilbane and industry companies worked with an ACE team in Philadelphia and participated in the ACE National Design Competition in Washington, D.C. These students took the opportunity to go

beyond the design of a waterfront park, a garage or a museum as the competition criteria defined, instead creating an innovative master plan to revitalize the Philadelphia Navy Yard with an entirely new waterfront complex. Seeing these students take the initiative and show such creativity reinforces why my participation in ACE and that of my colleagues at Gilbane is so exciting and important.

I began supporting ACE in 2005. Since then, it has changed my outlook on the potential of our nation's youth. Through this unique program, we're offering students the chance to seize new opportunities and pursue a future that might not have been accessible to them before. At the same time, we are giving back to the communities we call home.

Mentoring youth has always been a tremendously important part of my life. The establishment of ACE and the subsequent commitment by Gilbane and other industry leaders to its success and students are two big reasons why I'm so optimistic about the future of our industry and the people who will be leading it in 10 or 20 years.

If you would like the opportunity to really make a difference to young people, to your profession or to your community, look at ACE.

## A Landscaping Legacy Connects ACE Students to the Community

**Critical to the continued** growth of ACE is the involvement of its sponsor organizations from across the country. In many cases, participation goes well beyond scholarships and high school mentoring, emphasizing the importance of community involvement.

The ASLA/ACE Mentor Program Legacy Project is one such program. Since 2006, members of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) from 48 chapters across the country have worked with ACE Affiliates to mentor high school students every year. In 2008, seeing a unique opportunity to do more, the organization introduced the Legacy Project with the goal of promoting positive change in the host city of the ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO. Through this program, the ASLA Annual Meeting host chapter teams up with the local ACE Mentor affiliate to develop a project for a community organization.

In 2011, ASLA and the San Diego ACE Affiliate collaborated with the Friends of Ruffin Canyon to design and implement an educational and native garden for William H. Taft Middle School in San Diego, Calif. Many ASLA EXPO exhibitors donated products and plants for the project. Throughout the school

year, ASLA hosted Saturday workshops for ACE students to provide hands-on knowledge about site analysis, urban gardening, watersheds, native plants and master plans. Now complete, the garden is universally accessible, providing opportunities for children of all abilities to explore San Diego's rich and diverse landscape—and a career direction for at least one ACE student. Project Legacy was instrumental in helping Maya Walden, a 2012 graduate of Patrick Henry High School and an ACE Mentor student, enroll in Mesa College with plans to become a landscape architect.

The 2012 ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., September 28-October 1, and plans for the 2012-2013 ASLA/ACE Mentor Program Legacy Project are well underway. The host ASLA Arizona chapter plans to upgrade the horticulture program greenhouse and build a courtyard garden at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix. Metro Tech provides vocational training to students from 15 high schools in the Phoenix Union High School District. The ASLA Arizona chapter will work with ACE Mentor Program students and Metro Tech students and faculty to upgrade



ACE students in San Diego worked with the Friends of Ruffin Canyon to develop an educational and native garden for William H. Taft Middle School.

**URS**

the facilities with paved spaces, raised planters, benches and gardens.\*

ASLA is also planning an education session for the meeting titled *Doing Well by Doing Good: Why Landscape Architects Need the ACE Mentor Program* during the 2012 Annual Meeting and Conference.

Susan Hatchell, FASLA, president of ASLA, has observed the direct benefits of the ACE Mentor Program. She says, "The ACE Mentor Program is an invaluable way to connect our members to a diverse group of young students who otherwise may not have heard of landscape architecture. ACE is a win-win in that it advances the profession of landscape architecture while helping our youth find exciting professional opportunities for the future." ■

\*For information on how to assist with or donate to the Phoenix ASLA/ACE Mentor Program Legacy Project, contact Galen Drake, ASLA, with Stantec at (602) 438-2200 x4791.

## Strategically Positioned for Another Extraordinary Year



**John Strock**  
Executive  
Director  
ACE Mentor  
Program

From the Presidential award to Charlie Thornton's appearance on the *TODAY* show with Jane Pauley, ACE was thrust onto the national stage as a life-changing, self-sustaining STEM organization in a very big way this last year—and we've earned it.

The support from our sponsors continues to outmatch any other after school program in the country. And I can't say enough about our mentors. They continue to find creative ways to capture the interest of young people. I particularly love the summer camp programs that

have been so successful in California and Chicago. These are a great way to keep the ACE Mentor spirit going throughout the school year.

At the national level, we've made great strides in restructuring our program to put greater focus in the field. As we prepare to embark on another exciting year, we'll have a new place of operation and some new neighbors. As of this summer, ACE National is moving its office from Stamford, Conn. to the Washington, D.C. metro area. With this move, we're strategically positioned and energized to expand our program and continue our mission to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction.

We hope you'll join us as a sponsor, a mentor or a volunteer.

# Wentworth



**PSI**



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# Next Generation Workforce Directory

## AECOM

[www.aecom.com](http://www.aecom.com)



AECOM is a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government.

## EMCOR Group, Inc.

[www.emcorgroup.com](http://www.emcorgroup.com)



EMCOR Group, Inc. is a Fortune 500® company with 2011 revenues of \$5.6 billion. EMCOR Group (NYSE: EME) is a global leader in mechanical and electrical construction, energy infrastructure and facilities services. EMCOR represents a rare combination of international reach with local execution, combining the strength of an industry leader with over 26,000 highly skilled employees and 170+ locations.

## American Infrastructure

[www.americaninfrastructure.com](http://www.americaninfrastructure.com)



American Infrastructure is a vertically integrated, heavy civil construction company and materials supplier in the Mid-Atlantic. A network of construction offices, quarries and asphalt plants serves developers, GCs, DOTs, governments, and federal and military customers.

## FMI Corporation

[www.fminet.com](http://www.fminet.com)



With more than 50 years of industry experience, FMI is the largest provider of management consulting, investment banking and research to the engineering and construction industry.

## API Group Inc.

[www.apigroupinc.us](http://www.apigroupinc.us)



With rapid customer response, knowledgeable employees, transparent costs and investments in cutting-edge technology, API Group Inc. is a leader of the subcontracting industry.

## Gilbane Building Company

[www.gilbaneco.com](http://www.gilbaneco.com)



Gilbane Building Company is a leading building firm, providing construction management as well as facilities-related services from sustainable building to the latest in construction technology for clients across various markets.

## DPR Construction

[www.dpr.com](http://www.dpr.com)



Built on technical expertise and a passion for results, DPR Construction is a national builder specializing in complex and sustainable advanced technology, health-care, higher education, life sciences and office projects.

## Limbach Facility Services

[www.limbachinc.com](http://www.limbachinc.com)



Limbach is an industry-leading specialty contractor and maintenance firm, offering sustainable building solutions centered on innovative HVAC management. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, the company operates 11 branches across the U.S.

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**NCCER**
[www.nccer.org](http://www.nccer.org)


NCCER is a not-for-profit education foundation created to develop standardized construction and maintenance curricula and assessments with portable, industry-recognized credentials.

**Skanska**
[www.usa.skanska.com](http://www.usa.skanska.com)
**SKANSKA**

Skanska USA is one of the nation's largest, most financially sound construction and development networks. With 36 offices, Skanska USA employs approximately 9,400 employees committed to sustainable construction and development and an injury-free workplace.

**PCL Construction Enterprises, Inc.**
[www.pcl.com](http://www.pcl.com)


The PCL family of companies is comprised of construction leaders in buildings, civil infrastructure and heavy industrial markets. We aspire to be your builders of choice.

**Stantec**
[www.stantec.com](http://www.stantec.com)


Stantec provides professional consulting services in planning, engineering, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, surveying, environmental sciences, project management, and project economics for infrastructure and facilities projects. One team. Infinite opportunities.

**Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI)**
[www.psiusa.com](http://www.psiusa.com)


PSI is a leading engineering, consulting and testing firm with 100 offices nationwide providing Information To Build On to clients who buy, sell, design, construct, finance and manage properties or infrastructure.

**STV**
[www.stvinc.com](http://www.stvinc.com)


2012 marks STV's 100th anniversary. STV provides engineering, architectural, planning, environmental and construction management services for major transportation, infrastructure, building and energy projects. We have been 100% employee-owned for over a decade.

**RailWorks**
[www.RailWorks.com](http://www.RailWorks.com)


RailWorks is a leading provider of track, transit and systems, and signals and communications construction and maintenance services for the rail and rail-transit industries throughout the United States and Canada.

**Textura Corporation**
[www.texturacorp.com](http://www.texturacorp.com)


Textura is the leading provider of collaboration and productivity tools for the construction industry. Our solutions serve all construction industry professionals across the project life cycle—from design and pre-qualification to bid management, submittals and payment—on a single, integrated platform.

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## Thornton Tomasetti

[www.ThorntonTomasetti.com](http://www.ThorntonTomasetti.com)

## Thornton Tomasetti

Thornton Tomasetti is a 600-person organization providing engineering design, investigation and analysis through six integrated practices: building structure, building skin, building performance, construction support services, property loss consulting and building sustainability.

## Turner Construction Company

[www.turnerconstruction.com](http://www.turnerconstruction.com)



Turner offers a range of construction services for the entire life cycle of a building project. Visit our website to see how our people are achieving their personal and professional goals.

## URS Corporation

[www.urs.com](http://www.urs.com)



URS Corporation is a leading provider of engineering, construction and technical services for public agencies and private sector companies worldwide. We provide services for federal, oil and gas, infrastructure, power and industrial markets.

## Zurich Insurance Group

[www.zurichna.com](http://www.zurichna.com)



Zurich Insurance Group is a leading multi-line insurance provider with a global network of subsidiaries with offices in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia Pacific and the Middle East. 2012 marks Zurich's 100-year anniversary of insuring America.

# PENN

# HKS

# **American Infrastruc- ture**

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### Associations

#### Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)

[www.cirt.org](http://www.cirt.org)



Construction Industry  
Round Table

The Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) is a national business association composed of the chief executives of the leading design/construction firms doing business in the U.S. and globally.

#### Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT)

[www.impact-net.org](http://www.impact-net.org)



IMPACT's mission is to expand job opportunities for ironworkers and signatory contractors by providing expertise in training, construction certifications, marketing, project tracking and bidding, insurance, Davis-Bacon compliance efforts and drug testing.

# Limbach

#### ACE Mentor Program of America Inc.

[www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)

