

Building for the Future

ENR's Annual ACE Mentor Yearbook 2013





A Letter from the ACE Mentor Co-Chairs



Charles H. Thornton



Thomas Gilbane, Jr.

The students, mentors, regional directors and many ACE Mentor Program volunteers far exceeded our expectations this past year.

We often point to the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition as an exclamation point for the program. This year was no exception. The presentations were amazing, both in scope and delivery. It's hard to describe the poise demonstrated by the young people who took the stage in front of some of the industry's top executives, mentors and their families.

Now, consider that there are thousands more young people just like them across the country with equally creative ideas—and at least a few of them are getting the opportunity to turn their ideas into reality. For example, Louisville, Ky. ACE students are using a grant from Lowe's to construct an amphitheater and multipurpose field for their high school—from a design that they conceived.

Our mission to introduce students to the AEC industry does not stop when these young people graduate. We have continued to build strong relationships with vocational schools, colleges and universities to create opportunities for these young people. Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston typifies this growing rapport. For years, the university has offered a four-year tuition scholarship to an ACE student. Going forward, they will offer two full four-year scholarships to ACE students. Manhattan College has offered a full four-year scholarship to an ACE student from the New York City Affiliate for years. Further extending the relationship, many of our sponsor companies have created internship opportunities as an extension of college curriculums.

Perhaps the most rewarding part of this past year was to see how many ACE alumni have returned to the program as mentors. In fact, one of our ACE alumni was honored with the ENR/McGraw Hill-ACE Exemplary Mentor Award! For a program like ours, there really is no better sign of success than to have mentees become mentors.

We have so much more to share about our activities over the last year. In the following section, you'll see how the ACE Mentor Program is expanding in both reach and depth as we continue to grow a curriculum that combines an introduction to architecture, engineering and construction careers with opportunities in the trades.

The success of ACE is largely due to the considerable time and energy from the affiliates and thousands of mentors in over 200 communities—and of course, the interest and commitment from the over 8,000 young people who participate in the program each year. It's been a great year and we look forward to 2013-2014. We hope you enjoy the following ACE Mentor Program year-in-review.

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

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



Alumni Bring Extra Spark to ACE Programs

Kevin Brown - Construction Supervisor. Kent Kaewaen - Civil Engineer. Caitlin Balthrop Moffitt - Engineer.



ACE students listen to one of ACE's first mentors, Charles Thornton, as he talks about the engineering requirements necessary to display an F-104 fighter jet for a local aviation museum.

These are just a few of today's ACE Mentor alumni who have returned to volunteer in the program, representing everything that program founder Charles Thornton envisioned when he formed the first mentoring class almost 20 years ago.

Kevin, Kent, Caitlin and thousands of others learned about opportunities in the building and construction industry through an ACE Mentor Program in high school, moved on with financial support from ACE sponsors to a vocational or university education



Former ACE student Kevin Brown, an engineer with Urban Engineers, is studying for his P.E. license.

and currently work in the industry. To complete the circle of success, these individuals have also returned to the ACE Mentor Program as enthusiastic volunteers, bringing a unique perspective and an undeniable energy.

Kevin recalls, "I attended a Philadelphia inner city high school and, until ACE, had no idea what I wanted to do and no interest in college. ACE gave me a chance to see some real possibilities. A counselor urged me to apply to Widener University and when it came time to pick a major, I remembered what I'd learned in ACE. I graduated in 2009 with a degree in civil engineering—the first in my family to earn a college diploma."

Today, Kevin is an engineer with Urban Engineers, studying for his P.E. license and volunteering with ACE as a mentor at his old high school. He's also been instrumental in getting his company to grow its participation in the ACE Mentor Program as a sponsor. Kevin adds, "ACE opened the door for me to work in a field that I love; now I'm hopefully helping other students in the same position that I was at their age discover the exciting career possibilities available in our industry."

Other ACE alumni echo Kevin's thoughts on ACE. Thai Nguyen was recently honored with the ENR/McGraw Hill-ACE Exemplary Mentor Award for his participation as a mentor and organizer for the ACE Los Angeles Affiliate. Thai says, "You can never be certain where life will take you, but I probably wouldn't be in the construction industry, and as happy at my chosen profession, if it weren't for the ACE Mentor Program." He's been a mentor since 2008.

John Strock, executive director of the ACE Mentor Program, says, "ACE has inspired thousands of high school students to become professionals in the industry. And now we see many alumni giving special inspiration to the next generation of ACE students. These alumni mentors are the ultimate demonstration of ACE's power and potential."



Former ACE student Caitlin Balthrop Moffitt serves on the ACE Chattanooga Affiliate's Board.

The ACE Mentor Program has 64 affiliates in 40 states and over 200 communities. About 8,000 high school students and almost 2,500 mentors participated in the program during the 2012-2013 school year. Over \$14 million in scholarships have been awarded since the ACE program began. In a recent survey of ACE high school seniors, 93% of respondents said they are heading to college in the fall. If the current trend is an accurate indicator, many of these future architects, engineers, contractors and trade professionals will return to ACE in the next 5-10 years to mentor another generation. ■

ACE Mentor Regional Reports



Western Report

The ACE Western Region includes 12 affiliates in Colorado, California, Oregon, and Washington. By Andrew Frankel, Director

As a new ACE regional director, I'm inspired to be a part of the active ACE Western Region.

Over the last year, affiliates have realized tremendous growth in student interest. For instance, the Washington Affiliate recently hit a milestone, mentoring 1,300 students and awarding more than \$305,000 in scholarships since its start in 2001.

Pete Maslenikov, a contractor for Skanska and a member of the ACE Washington Board of Directors in charge of mentors, adds, "This year students were particularly enthused because their design project tied into an actual project in South Seattle that has generated a lot of buzz—a new sports arena. Students had the opportunity to present their arena designs to the firm working on the project and see some of the firm's preliminary design concepts. The experience provided students with an invaluable head start going into college and the professional workplace."

Fundraising has also been impressive. At its annual luncheon, the Oregon Affiliate increased its fundraising dollars by 50% and almost doubled the number of attendees. It awarded scholarships worth \$46,000, 65% more than last year.

The San Diego Affiliate celebrated its 10th anniversary by raising a record \$209,000. This put its accumulated fundraising over the \$1-million mark. A few days after the banquet, the affiliate's chair, Mike Wall, threw out the first pitch at a San Diego Padres game during a mentor appreciation event.

ACE Los Angeles raised \$125,000 at its early 2013 fundraiser, 25% more than last year. The affiliate is particularly proud of its ENR/McGraw Hill—ACE Exemplary Mentor Award winner, Thai Nguyen, an ACE alum.

ACE affiliates in California will host the third annual summer camp at San Jose State University. More than 20 students,

all receiving scholarships from the camp or from their affiliates, will design and build dog houses to be donated to a local shelter. As before, members of Associated General Contractors (AGC) student chapters will mentor the students.

Turner Construction Co. has created a different summer opportunity, opening six internships exclusively for ACE students to work on construction of the Levi's Stadium, new home to the San Francisco 49ers.

Looking ahead, I believe next will be our most exciting yet. I'm particularly delighted about the new North Valley Affiliate in Chico initiated by California State University, Chico students. Members of the university's AGC student chapter will mentor a team of 15-20 students from two local high schools.

Stay tuned for more about this new affiliate and other notable successes in the Western Region over the coming year. ■



Southeast Report

The ACE Southeast Region, which includes 20 affiliates from Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, added one new affiliate in the 2012-2013 year in Puerto Rico. By Jack Tipton, Director

First ACE in a U.S. Territory

Led by the CSA Group, an ACE national sponsor, the ACE Puerto Rico Affiliate based in San Juan has been one of my most successful startups. With four key sponsors, the affiliate began its first year with 33 mentors and 68 junior and senior high school students from three public high schools. Organized into four teams, the students completed the ACE program with near perfect attendance, and it was conducted all in Spanish.

Loretta Garcia, senior vice president Employee Services at CSA Group and board

chair of the Puerto Rico Affiliate, says, "To further encourage interest in the ACE profession, we looked to involve the local colleges and universities in the program. The Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico is a sponsor and hosted a career day. In 2013-2014 we plan to partner with other local colleges and universities, grow our program outside San Juan, and open the program to freshman and sophomores."

Around the Region

Our ACE affiliates captured the attention of students with a quality

blend of technology, hands-on activities and enthusiasm.

For example, the Lexington Affiliate in Kentucky used advanced technology to help grow student participation from four students to over 20 in 2012-2013. They worked with local industry mentors to craft their final project designs using Autodesk Revit, Google Sketch-up and other design tools. At the year-end gala, many distinguished guests including Alice Foggy Kerr, Kentucky State Senator, 12th District, were impressed by the students' digital presentations.

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Only in its second year, the ACE Charleston (South Carolina) Affiliate, increased student participation from eight to 18. ACE teams from two schools presented their final projects before distinguished guests, including Ray Huff, a legendary Charleston architect and one of the first African Americans to graduate from the Clemson University architecture program. He was the event's keynote speaker.

Florida affiliates noted similar interest and exceptional growth. For instance, the ACE Broward County Affiliate has mentored over 200 students and awarded more than \$25,000 in scholarships during the past five years.

Ideas into Reality

Perhaps one of the most promising ACE developments in the Southeast Region is the creation by the Architecture and Construction Career Academy in Nashville of an "ACE Class" as a senior capstone project. This year's project by the ACE team was a shed built for a local client. The team formed a company complete with a CEO, CFO, project manager, superintendent and estimator. As a result of this relationship along with strong business partnerships with the community, the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) has recognized the Architecture and Construction Academy at Cane Ridge High School as a "model" academy.

I'm especially delighted to see students have the opportunity to turn ideas into reality, which is happening in Louisville, Kentucky. As well, ACE teams are incorporating the trades training into their curriculums so that

our young people gain a hands-on look into industry skills ranging from carpentry to concrete.

Summer ACE

ACE Southeast developed two new summer programs. The ACE-University of Florida summer camp (July 16-19, 2013) includes workshops in design, building information modeling, estimating and concrete, as well as field trips to nearby construction sites.

The ACE-Middle Tennessee State University summer camp (July 10-13, 2013) offers concrete, construction, interior design and engineering workshops as well as several field trips to nearby construction sites. University professors will teach students about key design technology solutions for tasks that range from estimating to CAD.

The last year has been the best yet for our region. We're enthusiastic about emerging opportunities to introduce young people to our industry and look forward to an even better 2013-2014.

Louisville ACE Student Project Breaks Ground

On January 4th, 2013, the ACE Louisville (Ky.) Affiliate received a \$25,000 grant from Lowe's Home Improvement to help fund Phase 1 construction of an amphitheater and multipurpose field at the Iroquois High School—a project first conceptualized by the school's ACE Mentor students a year ago.

Iroquois High School ACE Mentor students presented the plan to ACE members and guests at the affiliate's annual gala dinner in 2012. The design included an outdoor classroom/ amphitheater, a multipurpose field and a

water reuse area to collect rain water off of their school building and parking lot. The collected water would be stored and used to irrigate the athletic fields.

Students presented the idea to Superintendent Donna Hargens and the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Board of Education.

"Over the summer, we used our relationships among the ACE affiliate in Louisville, SkillsUSA Kentucky, JCPS, the Kentuckiana Construction Users Council (KCUC) and the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council (K4C) to discuss funding opportunities to make this project a reality for the students," recalls Daren Thompson, Flood Protection Supervisor with Louisville MSD and ACE mentor.

As part of the project, students in the Fairdale High School Heavy Equipment program will assist Iroquois High School's ACE Mentor Program students in the site work. Thompson adds, "I do not know of any other mentoring program that allows students to work with industry professionals to see the construction process hands-on from cradle to grave. This is truly a unique partnership, and it benefits the students, Iroquois High School, the community, and our industry."

Iroquois High School's principal Chris Perkins said of the project, "It is inspiring to imagine how moving it will be to see new structures develop as a result of such a phenomenal collaborative partnership between so many entities. Kudos to JCPS, our ACE mentors, SkillsUSA, area business partners, the leadership in our career-themed magnet program and, most importantly, to our students, who have been blessed to be a part of such a 'Hope Building' opportunity." ■



South-Central Report

As the newest official ACE Region, South-Central includes six affiliates in Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. By Stephanie Davi Ercolini, Director

All of our affiliates had a strong year, thanks in large part to major outreach efforts across the region—and there are so many great stories to tell.

For example, the ACE San Antonio Affiliate, first organized in 2006 and actively involved with two local high schools, was pleased to welcome

Sydney Lanier High School as a pilot program this year.

Laura Elvia Hernández, LEED AP, an associate with Ford Powell & Carson and chair of the San Antonio Board, says, "Lanier is one of the most economically disadvantaged communities in our area. Students from Lanier rarely leave their

community and seldom have the opportunity to see what kinds of career options are available to them. For this first year, a great team of mentors worked with the young students—that nearly ended in disappointment."

A week before end-of-year presentations, Hernández received a message from the school that the team

was bowing out of the presentation and would not finish the year with ACE because their presentation was not ready. She visited the campus only to find that the students had done a remarkable job on a project that was well worth bragging about.

Jeremiah Gonzalez, the only senior on the Lanier team, led his schoolmates, with encouragement from mentors and teachers, to mock-renovate an abandoned Lone Star Brewery site. The development included a new baseball stadium, library, indoor and outdoor movie theaters, swimming pool and gym.

Another ACE team in San Antonio had an opportunity to exhibit their design at the Texas State Capitol in Austin. State Senator Leticia Van de Putte invited the students to be recognized from the Senate floor and display their work for one week in the Capitol South Gallery.

One of the most important parts of the ACE Mentor Program is our ability to help our energized young people move on to higher education and skilled trades training programs. Scholarships can help. To stimulate scholarship fundraising, the Dallas/Fort Worth Affiliate hired an event planner.

Dallas Affiliate president Stephanie Laughlin, P.E., with Bury + Partners, says, "Amy Green, owner of i-Events, re-vamped our sponsorship structure for a bowling tournament and quadrupled our net income from \$4,000 to \$16,000 in just one year. Her knowledge of the market, the industry and other events that she manages has been the key to our success. Not only does she handle our fundraising events, but she also attends our board meetings, takes minutes, manages marketing material,

and sets up the affiliate database plus more."

The ACE Greater New Orleans (GNO) Affiliate has an interesting spin on its program. Often times, affiliates can struggle with retaining students because of conflicts with other extracurricular activities such as sports or music. The GNO teams solved this problem by meeting in the mornings as part of the students' homeroom class. Students like it because they get class credit for ACE and mentors love it because they can head straight to school on their way to the office, rather than rushing around in the afternoon. The GNO program looks to expand to three teams this year and clearly has the support to do it.

We look forward to more great ideas and initiatives from the South-Central Region in the next year. ■



Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Report

The ACE Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Region includes 22 affiliates from Maine to Maryland and as far west as Indiana. Next year the region will expand to 24 affiliates with the addition of New Hampshire and Rochester, New York affiliates.
By Diana Eidenshink, Director

We've had a great year in the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast! Many of our 22 affiliates, especially the smaller and younger organizations, realized impressive growth in students, mentors and sponsorship. Boston, Rhode Island, Annapolis and Delaware are excellent examples of affiliates that have re-energized their boards of directors to build on a strong core of mentors and significantly expand fundraising opportunities.

In fact, the Boston Affiliate dramatically improved fundraising levels from about \$3,000 in 2011-2012 to almost \$30,000 in 2012-2013.

Boston Affiliate Chair Nigel Gallaher says, "Mentors are certainly the heart of a successful ACE program, but fundraising is also critical to long-term growth and our ability to help young ACE participants continue their education in college and trade schools. With advice from our regional director, we recruited a champion to capture the interest of those outside of

the ACE Mentor family to speak at our fundraising event."

That champion was Boston City Councilor Tito H. Jackson, a known proponent of public schools and mentoring. "He was amazing. His participation has helped attract other city organizations outside of the AEC industry and increased sponsorship by 900% in one year," says Gallagher.

Other affiliates introduced innovative programs to expand the role of ACE to a broader audience and support young students long after high school. For instance, ACE's largest and oldest affiliate, Greater New York with about 800 students, has initiated an Alumni Committee. It is identifying past ACE participants (now graduated from college and in the workforce) in order to reconnect them with ACE as mentors and volunteers. The committee is also a great way for ACE alumni to network and meet others in our industry.

As well, several affiliates have developed exceptional trade programs. For example, the Indianapolis Affiliate incorporated subcontractor activities into team sessions, including a hands-on slab pour/finish, block and brick laying, bending conduits and connecting circuits, core concrete testing, and much more. (See ACE Affiliates Grow Awareness for Construction Trade Career Opportunities story.)

Over the past year, the students in our region worked hard on their final projects. They ranged from outdoor living spaces and parks to a new school in an area hit by Hurricane Sandy. One affiliate took the layout of a local college campus and had each team redesign a current facility suitable to host a future Olympics. Overall, our students demonstrated imaginative, creative projects and once again impressed the audience with their presentations.

For 2013-2014, we will continue to increase the strength of each affiliate in terms of the number of students, financial stability and overall program. ■



ACE Affiliates Grow Awareness for Trade Career Opportunities

The ACE Mentor Program is recognized as one of the top after-school mentoring programs dedicated to introducing high school students to all facets of the architecture, engineering and construction industry—including the trades and craftworkers.

In 2006, ACE partnered with the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and the International Masonry Institute (IMI) to introduce high school students to skilled craftworker professions. Since that time, affiliates across the country have partnered with other trade and craftworker organizations, such as American Infrastructure, to familiarize students with the trades during the ACE after school program.

Ross Myers, CEO of American Infrastructure and member of the National ACE Mentor Executive Committee, says, “Our involvement with ACE began as a community outreach program several years ago because we realized the workforce challenges that we face in the very near future. Industry experts predict that we’ll need 1 million

craftworkers very soon to fill the gaps left by retiring baby boomers. Through ACE, we have an opportunity to introduce young people to skilled trades from crane operators to carpenters and build the next generation of talent.”

“Guidance counselors often overlook the career opportunities in the construction industry,” says IMI President Joan Calambokidis. “It’s great to have ACE to get kids interested

in architecture and engineering, but there are great jobs in the skilled trades too. Students across the country are finding the skilled trades are a great career path.”

Central PA Possibilities

One of the most impressive programs is the Central Pennsylvania Affiliate, which includes 190 students from 39 high schools. The affiliate offers a skilled trades



At the Los Angeles Affiliate’s 5th Annual Trades Day students learned how to wire a lamp.

Bringing Colleges and Universities into the ACE Fold



Rich Allen

Chief Operating Officer
Stantec

A key to the success of the ACE Mentor Program is its relationships, from the students and their high schools to the mentors and their firms. But a sometimes overlooked partner is the many colleges and universities looking to develop the next generation of engineers.

The ACE program has built relationships with 44 colleges and universities across the country who understand the value of the program and the impact it can have on participants. Students who have gone through ACE have a better understanding of what a career in the ACE fields entails and are, ideally, even more eager to pursue one.

What's more, the scholarships offered by ACE make these students' prospects for affording college that much more attainable, and the distinction of being awarded a scholarship marks them as shining stars in our field. It's really an ideal partnership, and one I'd like to see developed further.

We all have connections to colleges and universities, whether as our client, our alma mater, or otherwise. If you haven't already, talk to those colleges and universities you know about the ACE Mentor Program. Invite them to an end-of-the-year presentation. Their awareness, involvement, and support of our program will only further strengthen its ultimate goal—to get more young professionals entering our industry. And that will truly benefit us all.

program that runs in parallel with the professional architecture, construction and engineering track. Mentors within the skilled trades track spend two-hours a day for 16-20 weeks during the school year introducing high school students to some of the most critical construction trades including carpentry, concrete, masonry, site excavation, mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems and much more. On any given week, students might have an opportunity to mud up a wall or operate heavy equipment from a simulator.

"We've found that students really enjoy working with their hands," says Timothy Przybylowski, P.E., LEED AP, vice president of Century Engineering, an engineering consulting firm in New Cumberland, Pa. and chair of the Central Pennsylvania ACE Affiliate. "Right now, over 50% of our students are exposed to both the professional and skilled trades programs through integrated crossover opportunities or additional sessions added to the curriculum."

California Connections

California affiliates also have a strong craftworker history. The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Southern California Chapter's Training Center in Anaheim, Calif. worked with the ACE Los Angeles Metro Area Affiliate to host its 6th annual Trades Day.

On Saturday, February 2, 2013, the ABC Southern California Chapter was proud to host approximately 135 students from 18 high schools from different areas in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Rialto and San Diego, and 45 mentors and advisors. All of the students received hands-on training that taught them, for example, the correct way to wire a light fixture to a switch. Then the students practiced their newly learned skills and literally saw the light come on. The students also learned and practiced the correct use of specialized tools used for the proper joining of different plumbing pipe together. ABC's outstanding instructors and lab techs conducted both of these activities, and under their careful supervision, the students gained useful and practical skills.

Matt Barnard, P.E., S.E., associate principal with Degenkolb Engineers and member of Los Angeles Affiliate board, says, "Trades Day provides a unique spotlight on the rich and

rewarding careers that are available in the construction trades."

To enhance the students' spirit of competition, they competed in two fun, but challenging, physical activities. They tested their stamina by shoveling pea-gravel into four buckets placed at increasing heights for 45 seconds. They then demonstrated their strength to see who could pull a rope and exert the most sustained force. The boys and the girls who won these competitions received an ABC So-Cal tee shirt and highly respected bragging rights.

Another activity provided for the students consisted of a tour of the electrical, electronic systems, heating ventilation and air conditioning, plumbing and sheet metal labs, where they learned interesting facts about each of these trades. They also saw demonstrations of what the ABC Apprentices and Craft Training students learn and practice in the field. Each of the students watched a short video and attended a briefing about the advantages and opportunities of apprenticeship in construction.

Douglas Sawyer, Sr., vice president of Education with ABC, says, "The students gained newfound information about career options in construction, and many of them expressed a strong interest in becoming a construction apprentice. The mentors and advisors left with practical information that will help them direct their students toward better career choices in the construction industry. Trades Day is a great community outreach program for our chapter that will help spread the word about apprenticeship, the best kept secret in America."

The ACE Trades Day students ended their exciting day at ABC with pizzas and sodas, and expressed their appreciation for their newly gained knowledge about the vast opportunities in construction careers. Students and mentors eagerly look forward to returning to ABC So-Cal for a future ACE Trades Day.

Tennessee Trades

The Nashville Tennessee Affiliate recently held its 11th annual awards banquet—and for the first time, awarded a \$1,000 trade scholarship to a young student to attend a vocational school. As well, ACE Nashville has developed a unique relationship with Metro Nashville Public School's Architecture and Construction Career Academy.

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The construction portion of the academy offers National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) courses with certification in trade crafts. As part of the ACE curriculum, the Nashville ACE team incorporates a classroom lecture on vocational programs during the school day as well as the traditional after school activities.

Massachusetts Management

In Boston, the ACE Boston Affiliate partners with Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and the New England-based carpenters union. Gerald Hullum, an ACE alum, participated in the ACE program during his junior and senior years of high school. Today, he is in his third year of a carpentry apprentice program through the New England Council of Carpenters Local 33 Union and in the fall will enter a construction management program offered by Boston's Wentworth Institute of Technology in collaboration the carpenters union.

Gerald says, "ACE was a great place to learn more about the industry. I knew a little about carpentry, but wanted to learn more about the overall design and

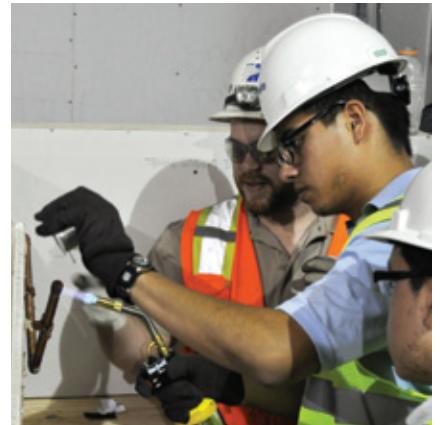
construction workflow. The program gave me a great jumpstart into understanding the business, helping me set a career path that fits my skills and my career goals."

Gerald is one of many who will gain greater insight into career opportunities in the trades through ACE. About 66% of 2013 ACE seniors reported that they received a hands-on introduction to one or more of the trades during the ACE program this past year.

Texas-Sized Potential

The ACE Dallas/Fort Worth Affiliate added a skilled trades component to its mentoring curriculum three years ago. One of the most popular activities is the Build-a-Brick Wall program. A local brick company and a masonry company provide all the necessary supplies to mix mortar, butter bricks, place rebar and build a brick wall. The best part is watching the students realize that it is not as easy as it looks! The students definitely walk away with a better appreciation for the trade and what an art form it is.

Stephanie Laughlin, P.E., senior project manager at Bury + Partners, says, "This year, one of our sponsoring general contractors added a 'quad' station activity



The ACE Dallas/Fort Worth Affiliate curriculum incorporates hands on trade activities including welding.

to the program so students could butter and lay bricks, hang dry wall and then tape and bed, weld and tile and grout. It was a great success and a day that our students really enjoyed." ACE DFW graduated 110 students this year and hopes to see that number increase over the next three years.

The previous year the Construction Education Foundation (CEF) hosted a field trip to their local shop so students could learn about plumbing, welding, safety, electrical, and other trades. ■



Central Iowa's Modular Concept Wins Top Prize At CIRT-ACE National Design Competition

Eight students from Des Moines, Iowa high schools took first place in the 7th Annual CIRT-ACE National Design Competition for their "Modular Reset" entry in the Modular Education Addition category. The students developed an idea for factory-built modules that can be quickly fabricated and shipped to schools as needed. The modules set on helical pier foundation systems create better learning environments for low-income school districts and even provide temporary structures to aid disaster relief efforts.

Second place went to a team from Frederick, Maryland (a two-time national winner) for their "Universal Design Home Retro-Fit" entry; and a team from Northern Rhode Island (Providence) earned third place for their "Riverwalk Park" entry.

The three finalists presented their projects at the National Building Museum during the CIRT Spring Conference in Washington, D.C. in front of a distinguished panel of CIRT members and other industry leaders. The judging panel included chief judge Co-Founder and Chairman of ACE Mentor Program of America Dr. Charles Thornton, HOK



ACE Central Iowa competition team: (L to R) Brant Bristow, Stacie Ellickson-Hastie, David Unick, Eric Cole, Katie Smithart, Joey Bahnsen, Sirina Reed, Ross Nickey, Jordan Hutton, Nicole Bramow, Josh Ridgely, Mike Dean. Not pictured: Saketh Undurty, Jonathan Vaage.

ACE national finals was an eye-opening experience. I was very impressed with the plans and ideas generated by the participants and their ability to clearly present their thoughts. Clearly, the ACE Mentor Program is working to generate interest, and develop future stars for our industry."

2nd Runner-Up: ACE Houston/Team T-3 for *T-3 Building of the Future*

Universal Design/Home Retro-Fit Challenge

1st Runner-Up: ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida/Orange Park HS Team

2nd Runner-Up: ACE Santa Ana, CA/Century HS Team

Best Presentation Boards

ACE Mentor of New Haven, CT C-9 *Urban Infill Park* entry boards (\$250 award)

Finally, CIRT congratulated the greater Los Angeles metro area for having the most entries in the competition—teams participated from L.A. proper, Santa Monica-West L.A., Inland Empire and Santa Ana.

Casso says, "Each year the finalists appear to bring ever more complete and more impressive presentations to the national round. It has been very gratifying not only to see the competition expand dramatically from only 6 to now 43 entries, but also to have newcomers experience great success as in this year's winner."

The record 43 entries developed by over 300 high school students represented 24 ACE affiliates/chapters from across the country. ■

Clearly, the ACE Mentor Program is working to generate interest and develop future stars in our industry.

William C. (Bill) Siegel, CEO, Kleinfelder

Group CEO Patrick MacLeamy, Kleinfelder CEO William C. (Bill) Siegel, Oldcastle Materials, Inc. CEO Randy Lake, Chairman and President of Walter P. Moore & Assoc. Ray Messer, *Architectural Record* managing editor Elisabeth Broome and CIRT president Mark A. Casso.

In the presentation round, the three teams were judged on two major elements—quality of presentation and competence of the overall entry. The judges analyzed the team presenter/spokesperson's ability to make a coherent, well thought-out, clear presentation on the design/construction approaches within the project's objectives while being fully responsive to the competition package elements in the challenge/RFP.

After the competition, Siegel said, "The opportunity to be a judge for the CIRT-

In addition, ACE and CIRT recognized six other teams for either First Runner-Up (\$1,000 award) or Second Runner-Up (\$500 award) in the three different design challenges or options.

Local Playground/Small Community Park Challenge

1st Runner-Up: ACE Mentor Program of Eastern PA/Team #8 for *The Park at Belmont*

2nd Runner-Up: ACE Houston/Team Bechtel for *Stude Street Park Renovation*

Modular Education Addition Challenge

1st Runner-Up: ACE Greater Bridgeport/Shelton-Trumbull Team for *Corrugated Classrooms*

American Bar Association (ABA) Introduces Construction Law Module to ACE Mentor Curriculum

The ACE Mentor Program and the American Bar Association (ABA) Forum on the Construction Industry have teamed to integrate a contract, claims and dispute resolution activity into the ACE after-school program.

The ABA construction law module is a three-part activity, designed to introduce the students to contracts, contract administration/interpretation, construction claims, dispute resolution, negotiation and settlement over the course of two hours.

After a brief introduction about contracts, mentors divide students into the roles of owner, general contractor and subcontractor in the midst of a mock negotiation about a contract dispute that arises during the construction of a new school.

Ideally, the module is facilitated by an attorney. However, if one is not available, the module is self-explanatory for mentors from other professions. After the three parties to the contract engage in a mock negotiation, mentors lead students through a post-negotiation analysis of lessons learned. The construction law module was piloted in the Greater New York Affiliate this past year generating great enthusiasm among the students.



Robert M. D'Onofrio, P.E., ACE mentor and a project manager with URS Corporation, recalls, "The students especially enjoyed the mock negotiation. Most young people never have an opportunity to learn how to effectively resolve problems in a calm professional manner. Through the module curriculum, they learn a valuable skill that will benefit them in whatever career they choose to pursue."

The construction law module will be available to all affiliates for the 2013-2014 school year. The ABA Forum on the Construction Industry is also compiling a list of ABA mentor volunteers from across the country to help facilitate the module.

International Risk Management Institute, Inc. (IRMI), also a sponsor of ACE, is considering the development of a similar risk management module for the program. Jack Gibson, president and CEO of IRMI, says, "Risk management, insurance and surety tie into the construction law issues to some extent and are critical to the success of projects. Those companies wherein risk management thinking permeates through the organization tend to be the most successful at managing risk. For this reason, it makes a lot of sense to introduce young people to the concepts before they enter the workforce."

For more information or for a list of ABA mentor volunteers, contact Nicholas D. Siegfried at nsiegfried@siegfriedlaw.com. ■

Mentoring Simply 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.

2013 ENR/McGraw Hill—ACE Exemplary Mentors

A jury of the 2012 ACE Exemplary Mentors selected four outstanding mentors as the 2013 ENR/McGraw Hill—ACE Exemplary Mentors. Their contributions to their students, fellow mentors, and affiliates epitomize the dedication and effectiveness of ACE's several thousand other mentors. To honor the four 2013 Exemplary Mentors, each of their affiliates received a \$2,500 student scholarship to be named after them.



Jesse Chrismer, P.E., LEED AP | Senior Project Engineer, Thornton Tomasetti

Since 2005, Jesse Chrismer, a senior project engineer with Thornton Tomasetti, has shared his enthusiasm for engineering and ACE as a mentor for the Greater New York Affiliate. In 2008 when Jesse was assigned to the new Yankee Stadium project, he joined the newly formed ACE team and soon became its leader. When the project finished, Jesse and the other mentors moved on to other assignments, but opted to keep a mentoring team operating at the stadium in spite of the extra commute time necessary to attend ACE meetings. He brings freshness and creativity to each ACE session. Jesse regularly leads mentor-training sessions, and for two years he co-funded a scholarship for a student to attend the summer Career Discovery Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. In his unofficial role as ACE mentor manager at Thornton Tomasetti, Jesse is a strong advocate for ACE, recruiting colleagues to join the program as mentors.



Raun Love, AIA, LEED AP | Project Architect, CSO Architects

From his own experience as a young person, Raun Love knows the benefits of having a strong mentor. For the past eight years, he has fulfilled that role for ACE students at one of Indianapolis's inner city high schools. His example inspires the students, and his talents as an architect and teacher stimulate them to perform at high levels. A project architect at CSO Architects, Raun strongly believes that students should learn how to create physical representations of their designs. The detailed 3D models that he teaches them to fabricate never fail to impress the audience when his ACE teams make their final presentations. Raun is considered one of ACE Indianapolis's top two cheerleaders. He is the Chair of the Mentor Committee, which, among other responsibilities, recruits new mentors, and also serves on the ACE Indianapolis Board of Directors.



Thai Nguyen | Project Engineer, PCL Construction

Thai Nguyen has come full circle with ACE—from a mentee at John Marshall High School in 2003 to the leader of the ACE team at his alma mater. With the aid of an ACE scholarship, he entered the construction management program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. While in college, he returned to his affiliate to interact with students and speak at fundraising events. In 2008, he joined PCL Construction, where today he is a project engineer, and began mentoring at his old high school. He has championed the ACE program at PCL's Los Angeles office with the result that the office has become one of the Los Angeles Affiliate's strongest corporate supporters. He also serves as one of the affiliate's two "Team Captains," a leadership position created to aid and advise team leaders. He is an active member of the Board's Education Committee and has initiated outreach efforts to middle schools that feed into the high schools where ACE teams function.



Carol Ritz | Quality Project Specialist, Bechtel

A founder of ACE Frederick, Carol Ritz has served as a mentor to students and mentors alike for the past eight years, and she has continuously held an executive position on the affiliate's board. She chairs the scholarship committee and organizes the final presentation/award nights. Her strong relationship with students contributes to their eagerness to participate for second and third years. And after they move on to college, she remains in contact with alumni, helping them secure internships and jobs and even become an ACE mentor. So that students can get a hands-on building opportunity, she arranges for them to take part in the local Habitat for Humanity projects. A quality project specialist at Bechtel, Carol has championed ACE within her company, which is one of ACE Frederick's major sponsors. Outside of Bechtel she participates in other affiliate fundraising efforts and regularly reaches out to the community to recruit new firms and mentors.



The Personal/Professional Rewards of Mentoring...Priceless



Thomas Gilbane, Jr.

Chairman/CEO
Gilbane Building Co.
ACE Co-Chairman

The number one mission of ACE is to introduce young people to career opportunities in our industry. A secondary benefit is the personal and professional development of employees.

We all know that construction is a team sport that requires diverse groups to solve new challenges on a daily basis. The leadership skills and relationships that mentors develop through ACE are immeasurable. Through the mentor's eyes, young people see and sense the satisfaction of becoming part of a team that builds everything from fire stations to power plants and hospitals to homes.

While mentoring is certainly the heart of the ACE program, fundraising is the lifeblood that gives the program reach beyond a high school classroom. Our many sponsors realize the challenges in facilitating a national program such as ACE, and perhaps most importantly, the need to grow the program in the coming years. The economic downturn is going to end and we face a looming shortage of people to respond to expected demand for construction services. ACE is one the few programs that will help feed our industry's great need for talent.

I thank the many ACE sponsor firms who provide financial support for the program. I also welcome firms of all sizes and services who recognize the personal and professional rewards of mentoring and would like to be a part of a program that is literally changing the face of our industry.

Beginning in 2013-2014, Gilbane established the Gilbane Mentor of the Year Award to recognize exemplary mentors with Gilbane and the Gilbane Ace Mentor Program Best Business Unit award to honor the unit that best reflects Gilbane's mentoring philosophy.

“One of life's greatest rewards is helping a young person develop personally or professionally, and then having that individual return a few years later to thank you for your part in that process.”

Thomas Gilbane, Jr., Chairman/CEO,
Gilbane Building Co. and ACE Co-Chairman

Cultivating a Culture of Community and Mentoring



Carmen D. Vann

Project Executive
Turner Construction Co.

The people of Turner share a common culture and commitment to be active members of the community. The programs include the Turner YouthForce 2020 program designed to encourage young people's interest in the math and sciences, with an emphasis on construction, the ACE Mentor Program and a strong internship and co-op program for college students.

Turner Construction Company has been involved with the ACE Mentor Program since its founding. Since that time,

employees at all levels of the organization have volunteered for the program as mentors and in leadership roles in local chapters and in the national organization. Today, Turner actively participates in ACE programs through each of its offices across the United States.

Turner's commitment to making a difference in the lives of its people, customers and communities is clearly displayed through the work of its people.

Carmen Vann, project executive in Turner's San Diego office, says, "great employees are shaped from great students," and she's finding true fulfillment on her current projects—the San Diego New Central Library and the Grossmont Union High School—which both provide meaningful educational facilities for youth. As an ACE mentor, Vann is particularly interested in this cause. She concludes, "We are especially focused on fostering youth interest in the building and construction industry."

“Great employees are shaped from great students. We are especially focused on fostering youth interest in the building and construction industry.”

Carmen Vann, Project Executive, Turner



ACE NEWSMAKERS 2012-2013

ACE affiliates, sponsors and individuals grabbed headlines across the nation.

- ▶ Star ACE **Nashville** student **Mustapha Williams** introduced First Lady Michelle Obama at his high school graduation ceremony.
- ▶ The Charlotte, North Carolina Mayor's Mentoring Alliance recognized the **Charlotte ACE Affiliate** as the 2012 Best Practice Mentoring Agency. The affiliate's lead mentors were finalists in the Group Mentoring category.
- ▶ **ACE Oregon** (Portland) received a \$52K, three-year grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.
- ▶ The **Greater Washington DC Metropolitan ACE Affiliate** and the ALSA Potomac Chapter won the ASLA 2012 Community Service Award.
- ▶ **ACE Louisville** won a \$25K grant from Lowe's to turn an ACE team's design into reality.
- ▶ Lt. Governor of Iowa spoke at the **Central Iowa Affiliate's** award banquet.
- ▶ **Tom Laird**, chairman of the **ACE Cleveland Affiliate** and Executive Vice President at Gilbane Building Co., received the 2012 Pillar Award for Nonprofit Board Executive of the Year, in recognition of his ACE work.
- ▶ Denver City Mayor Michael Hancock spoke at the **Denver Affiliate** fundraiser.
- ▶ The American Society of Civil Engineers presented its Outstanding Projects and Leaders award to **ACE National Leadership** Council member **Robert Alger**, president and CEO of Lane Construction Company, and **ACE co-chairman Charles Thornton**, founding principal of Thornton Tomasetti.
- ▶ **Greater San Antonio ACE** students exhibited their final projects in the Texas State Capitol.
- ▶ **Chicago ACE Affiliate** alum **Stephen Hsueh** won the Chicago Architectural Foundation's first National High School Architecture Competition.
- ▶ Seven ACE alumni from ACE affiliates in **Hartford, CT, Birmingham, New York City, Jacksonville, FL, Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago**, and **Bridgeport/Stratford, CT** were awarded scholarships to attend USGBC's Greenbuild Conference.
- ▶ The AIA recognized **Los Angeles ACE** mentor and senior associate at the DRL Group, **Virginia Marquardt**, with its Young Architects Award and elected Los Angeles ACE board member **Debra Gerod** to the AIA College of Fellows.
- ▶ The USGBC selected three ACE 2009 alumni from the **Seattle, Chicago**, and **New York City Affiliates** to receive year-long mentoring by members of the USGBC Board of Directors.
- ▶ *Engineering News-Record* cited **Jonathan Sigman**, a mentor with the two-year-old **Charleston, South Carolina ACE Affiliate**, as one of the Southeast's "Top 20 under 40."
- ▶ The Allstate Insurance Company named **ACE alumnus** and now **ACE Nashville Affiliate** mentor **Joseph Cole** as a Give Back Day Hero for his ACE volunteer work. He donated the \$2,500 award to ACE Nashville.
- ▶ **Denise Ramsey**, immediate past chairman of the **ACE Northeast Florida Affiliate** (Jacksonville) and current Board secretary, is one of four women honored as a STEM innovator. The Jacksonville Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women recognized her for her work with ACE and as chief engineer at Haskell.

ACE Alum Spotlight



Philip X. Conroy,
LEED AP

Philip X. Conroy, LEED AP, an assistant project manager for Bancroft Construction Co., was a junior in high school when

he first attended an ACE session, with an interest in architecture. Through ACE, he found that his passion was in building. After two years in the program, he earned a scholarship that he used to help pay for his education at Temple University where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil and construction engineering technology. One year out of college, he signed up to mentor for ACE. Now, five years down the road, Philip is one of the leaders on the board of directors for the fast-growing ACE Delaware Affiliate and a passionate spokesman for the program.

ACE Alum Spotlight



Matt Eissinger

Matt Eissinger's high school wood shop teacher encouraged him to join the ACE Mentor Program in his

junior year of high school. Matt, a heavy equipment operator for Lund, recalls, "My dad worked in construction for 35 years, so I knew a little about the industry. But ACE really opened my eyes to other opportunities. Because of ACE in the Sacramento area, I had an internship where I learned to build 3D models for machine control systems that are part of so many of today's machines." Today, Matt is a member of the Operating Engineers Local Union #3 and still builds 3D models for earthwork equipment in the winter for a local contractor.



ACE IN THE PRESS AND ON THE AIR—2012-2013

Newspapers, periodicals and broadcast outlets continue to spread news of ACE's successes. Here's a sample of press coverage from the past year.

- ▶ A 10-page spread in the Texas-Louisiana regional edition of *Engineering News-Record* (December 10, 2012) showcased **ACE Dallas/Fort Worth**.
- ▶ *Structure* (July 2012), a publication of the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations, ran a 4-page article about ACE penned by **Los Angeles Affiliate** board member and mentor **Matt Barnard** and LA 2009 alumnus **Jesus Orozco**.
- ▶ The **Central Pennsylvania Affiliate's** skilled trade tracks were featured in the December 10, 2012 issue of *Engineering News-Record*.
- ▶ Associated Builders and Contractors *Construction Executive* profiled the **ACE Raleigh/Durham Affiliate** mentors in December 2012.
- ▶ The **Rochester, NY Affiliate's** program was spotlighted in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (January 4, 2013).
- ▶ The statewide collaboration between **California ACE affiliates** and Associated Builders and Contractors was highlighted in the Nov/Dec 2012 issue of *California Constructor*. The California summer camp was the main focus.
- ▶ *The Des Moines Register* (May 11, 2013) profiled the **Central Iowa Affiliate** team that won the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition.
- ▶ The **ACE Charlotte Affiliate's** 5th annual "Spotlight on Hunger" was highlighted in the *Charlotte Observer* (November 16, 2012). Using canned goods that are ultimately donated to a local food bank, student teams designed structures visible on the Charlotte skyline.
- ▶ **Los Angeles ACE** alumnus and now mentor **Ricardo Zendejas** was profiled in *California Constructor* (Nov/Dec 2012 issue).
- ▶ Jacksonville, FL channel WJCT-TV, a Public Broadcasting Service affiliate, in October 2012 aired a 5-minute segment about ACE's effectiveness. **Kimberly Hansen**, chair of the **Northeast Florida Affiliate's** board, and 2009 alumnus and now mentor **Mercelin Etienne** told ACE's story.
- ▶ The Easton, Maryland *Star Democrat* (February 24, 2013) showcased the design by an **Eastern Shore, Maryland Affiliate** team for an aviation museum at the local airport.
- ▶ The final presentations of several **ACE Northeast Florida** teams were reported in **Clay Today** (May 16, 2013), an Orange County Florida paper.
- ▶ *The Chattanooga* (May 5, 2013) covered the final awards presentations of teams in the **Southeast Tennessee North Georgia Affiliate**.



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ENR'S ANNUAL ACE MENTOR YEARBOOK 2013

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President & CEO
Figg Engineering Group
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President & CEO
International Risk Management Institute
Dallas, TX

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Managing Partner
Grassi & Company
Jericho, New York

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Chief Executive Officer
IMPACT
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Zurich Insurance
Minneapolis, MN

Mr. John R. Heisse

Partner
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
San Francisco, CA

Mr. Steve Hofmeister

Senior Principal
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Kansas City, MO

Mr. Tommy Holder

Chairman and CEO
Holder Construction Company
Atlanta, GA

Mr. Dan Johnson

Chief Operating Officer
M.A. Mortenson Company
Minneapolis, MN

Ms. Cheryl Lazzaro

Senior Vice President, Human Resources, NA
AECOM
New York, NY

Mr. Gregory W. Lippard

Vice President – Rail Products
LB Foster
Pittsburgh, PA

Mr. John Malloy

President and CEO
Victaulic
Easton, PA

Mr. Jeff Matros

President & Chief Executive Officer
STRAAM Corporation
New York, NY

Mr. A. Ridgeway Miller, CPA

Partner
Crowe Horwath LLP
Indianapolis, IN

Mr. Robert Moser

President of National Group
Clark Construction Group, LLC
Bethesda, MD

Mr. Anthony Naccarato, P.E., SECB

Principal
O'Donnell & Naccarato, Inc.
Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Michael Noe

COO, Construction Services Business Unit
Travelers Bond
Hartford, CT

Mr. Robert Peckar, Esq.

Principal
Peckar and Abramson
River Edge, NJ

Ms. Debra Pothier

Senior Marketing Manager, AEC Education
Autodesk, Inc.
Waltham, MA

Mr. Timothy Powers

Chairman and CEO
Hubbell Incorporated
Shelton, CT

Mr. Clyde W. Rainey, CCDP/AP

Corporate Diversity Director
Gaylor
Indianapolis, IN

Mr. Gordon Rawlins

President
CMiC
Toronto, ON

Mr. Milo Rivero

President & CEO
STV, Inc.
New York, New York

Ms. Pat Rodgers

President & CEO
Rodgers Builders, Inc.
Charlotte, NC

Ms. Melissa Rohland, P.E.

Director, Consulting
Bentley Systems, Inc.
Carlisle, PA

Mr. Robert A. Rubin, Esq.

Partner
McCarter & English, LLP
New York, NY

Mr. Dennis Rude

Founder
Cathedral Stone Products
Hanover, MD

Mr. Chase W. Rynd

Executive Director
National Building Museum
Washington, DC

Professor Walter P. Saukin

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering
Manhattan College
Riverdale, NY

Mr. J.J. Suarez

Chairman/CEO
CSA Group, Inc.
Miami, FL

Mr. Kevin White

Chairman & CEO
AON Risk Solutions
Boston, MA

Mr. Douglas Woods

President
DPR Construction, Inc.
Redwood City, CA



NATIONAL AFFILIATES

Building for the Future

ENR'S ANNUAL ACE MENTOR YEARBOOK 2013

Alabama

ACE Mentor Program of Alabama, Inc.
BirminghamAL@acementor.org

AIA Birmingham
Laurel Stiff
acementoralabama@gmail.com

Arizona

Greater Phoenix Area ACE Affiliate, Inc.
PhoenixAZ@acementor.org

City of Phoenix Aviation Department
Valerie Churchwell
valerie.churchwell@phoenix.gov

California

ACE Mentor Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, Inc.
LosAngelesCA@acementor.org

ACE LA Administrator
Paulette Dallas
infoACELA@ACEmentorLA.org

ACE Mentor Program of San Diego, Inc.
SanDiegoCA@acementor.org

Mike Wall Engineering, Inc.
Mike Wall
acesd@sbcglobal.net

ACE Mentor San Francisco, Inc.
SanFranciscoCA@acementor.org

Stoecker and Northway Architects
Cynthia Muñoz
cynthia@stoeckerandnorthway.com

ACE Mentor Sacramento
SacramentoCA@acementor.org

ACE Mentor Program Sacramento
Ani Malkasian
sacramentoca@acementor.org

ACE Mentor Program of Central California, Inc.
CentralCA@acementor.org

Central California Builders Exchange
Roxanne Greenwood
Roxanne@cencalbx.com

Colorado

ACE Mentor Program of Colorado, Inc.
CO Denver
DenverCO@acementor.org

OES Management, LLC
Anne O'Neill
anne@oesmanagement.com

ACE Mentor Program of Colorado, Inc.
CO Pueblo
PuebloCO@acementor.org

Bechtel
Jeff Fuller
jgfuller@bechtel.com

Connecticut

ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut, Inc.
BVH Integrated Services, Inc.
Maria Loitz
MariaL@bvhis.com

ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut, Inc.
CT Bridgeport/Stratford
GreaterBridgeportCT@acementor.org

Stratford Public Schools
Diane Christiano
ChristianoD@stratfordk12.org

ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut, Inc.
CT Hartford
HartfordCT@acementor.org

Northeast Collaborative Architect
John Scheib
jscheib.aia@gmail.com

ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut, Inc.
CT New Haven
NewHavenCT@acementor.org

Langan Engineering & Environmental Sciences
Katy Lynch
klynch@langan.com

ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut, Inc.
CT Waterbury
WaterburyCT@acementor.org

O&G Industries, Inc.
Verzem Poveromo
verzem@ogind.com

Delaware

ACE Mentor Program of Delaware
Delaware@acementor.org

Skanska USA Building
Lyle Frederick
Lyle.Frederick@skanska.com

District of Columbia

ACE Mentor Program of Greater Washington, DC, Inc.
WashingtonDC@acementor.org

Gilbane Building Company
Paul Choquette III
pjciii@gilbaneco.com

Jason Baum
washingtondc@acementor.org

Florida

ACE Mentor Program of Central Florida, Inc.
CentralFL@acementor.org

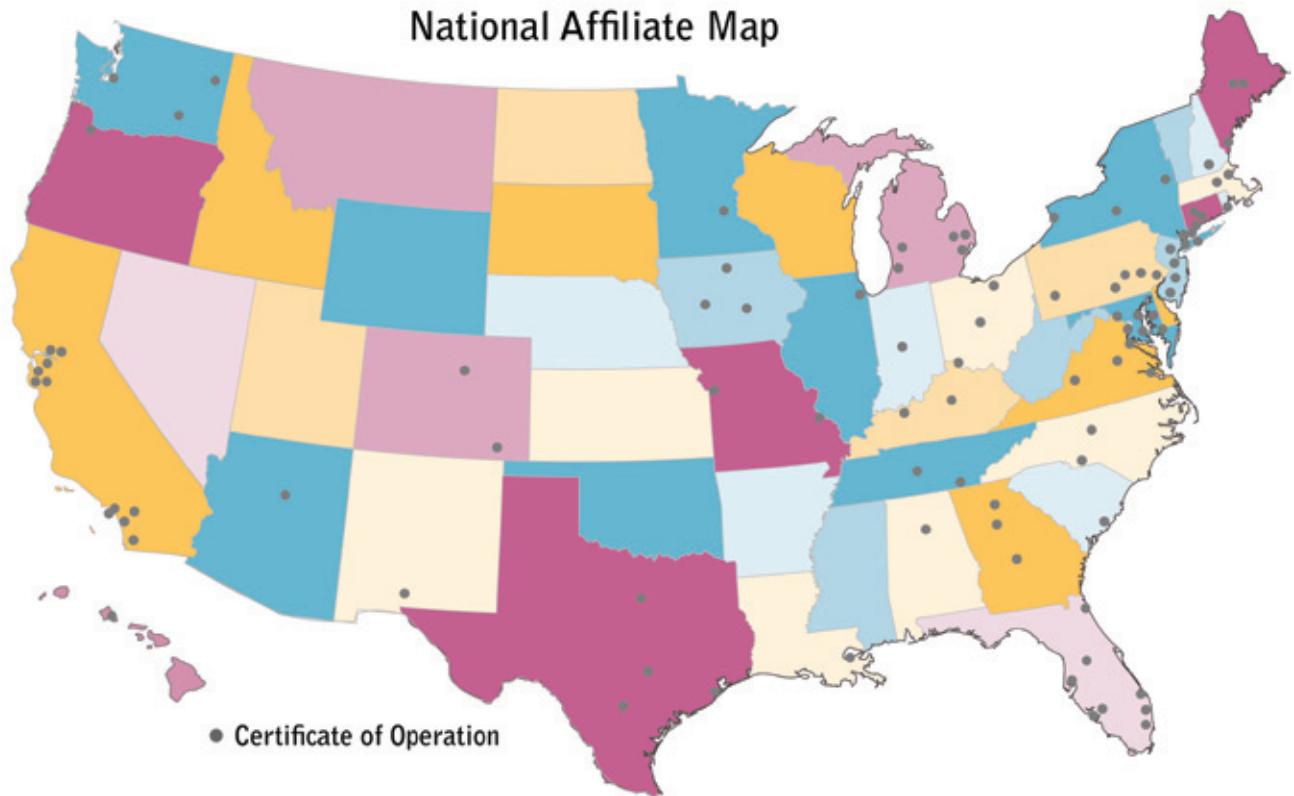
Hensel Phelps Construction Co.
Charlie Barnard
cbarnard@henselphelps.com

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc.
NortheastFL@acementor.org

Integrated Construction, LLC
Kimberly V. Hansen
khansen@inteconst.com

ACE Mentor Program of Miami-Dade County, Inc.
Miami-DadeFL@acementor.org

CSA Group
Roberto Leon
rleon@csagroup.com



ACE Mentor Program of Broward County, Inc.
BrowardCountyFL@acementor.org

Current Builders
 Charles Reid
creid@currentbuilders.com

ACE Mentor Program of Palm Beach/Martin County, Inc.
PalmBeachCountyFL@acementor.org

Pirtle Construction
 Gary Pirtle
gary@pirtleconstruction.com

ACE Mentor Program of Palm Beach/Martin County, Inc.
MartinCountyFL@acementor.org

Suffolk Construction
 Dagoberto Diaz
DDiaz@suffolkconstruction.com

ACE of Tampa Bay
 Atkins North America
 Lisa B. Davis
lisa.davis@atkinsglobal.com

Georgia

ACE Mentor Program of Atlanta, Inc.
AtlantaGA@acementor.org

Turner Construction
 Winston Williams
wmwilliams@tcco.com

Illinois

ACE Mentor Program of Chicago Illinois, Inc.
ChicagoIL@acementor.org

Pat O'Connell
poc99@comcast.net

Indiana

ACE Mentor Program of Indianapolis Indiana, Inc.
IndianapolisIN@acementor.org

Indiana University
 Matthew Bartlett
mattbartlett@att.net

Iowa

ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa, Inc. (Des Moines)
DesMoinesIA@acementor.org

Brooks Borg Skiles
 David S. Unick
dunick@bbsae.com

ACE Mentor Program of North Iowa, Inc. (Mason City)
MasonCityIA@acementor.org

Rist & Associates
 Scott Tornquist
Scott@TornquistForRiverCity.com

Kentucky

ACE Mentor—Louisville, Inc.
LouisvilleKY@acementor.org

Henderson Services LLC
 Dwayne Rice
drice@henderson-services.com

ACE Mentor Program of the Bluegrass, Inc. (Lexington)
LexingtonKY@acementor.org

RicciGreene Associates
 Stacey Wiseman
stacey@riccigreene.com

Louisiana

ACE Mentor Program of New Orleans, LA
NewOrleansLA@acementor.org

Blicht-Knevel Architects, Inc.
 William Keeley
williamk@blichtknevel.com



Maine

**ACE Mentoring of Maine, Inc.
ME Bangor**
BangorME@acementor.org

Harriman
Tyler Johnson
tjohnson@harriman.com

**ACE Mentoring of Maine, Inc.
ME Portland**
PortlandME@acementor.org

Harriman
Tyler Johnson
tjohnson@harriman.com

Maryland

**ACE Mentor Program of Annapolis,
MD, Inc.**
AnnapolisMD@acementor.org

Gilbane Building Company
Kelly Rosenthal
KRosenthal@gilbaneco.com

**ACE Mentor of Baltimore,
Maryland, Inc.**
AnnapolisMD@acementor.org

Bozzuto Construction Company
Kelly Cantley
kcantley@bozzuto.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Maryland,
Eastern Shore, Inc.**
EastonMD@acementor.org

Jack Dempsey
Wamjackd@aol.com

**Frederick Affiliate of the ACE Mentor
Program of America, Inc.**
FrederickMD@acementor.org

Millennium Resource Engineering
Bryan Jay Burke
FrederickMD@acementor.org

Massachusetts

**ACE Mentor Program of
Massachusetts, Inc.
Boston & Cambridge**
BostonMA@acementor.org

Nigel Gallaher
nigelgallaher@comcast.net

Michigan

**ACE Mentor Program
of Michigan, Inc.**

AGC of Michigan
Viki Gotts
vgotts@agcmichigan.org

**ACE Mentor Program of Michigan, Inc.
MI Battle Creek**
BattleCreekMI@acementor.org

TowerPinkster
Shawn Parshall
sparshall@towerpinkster.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Michigan, Inc.
MI Detroit**
DetroitMI@acementor.org

Turner Construction
Tina Jones
tjones@tcco.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Michigan, Inc.
MI Grand Rapids**
GrandRapidsMI@acementor.org

URS Corp.
Brian Johnson
Brian_Johnson@URSCorp.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Michigan, Inc.
MI Kalamazoo**
KalamazooMI@acementor.org

Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Sean Jagels
sean.jagels@skanska.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Michigan, Inc.
MI Lansing**
LansingMI@acementor.org

Granger Construction Company
Emily White
ewhite@grangerconstruction.com



**ACE Mentor Program of Michigan, Inc.
MI Pontiac**
PontiacMI@acementor.org

George W. Auch Company
Jim Chernosky
JChernosky@AuchConstruction.com

Minnesota

**ACE Mentor Program of
Minneapolis, MN**
MinneapolisMN@acementor.org
TwinCitiesMN@acementor.org

Mortenson Construction
Dylan VanAvery
Dylan.VanAvery@mortenson.com

PCL Construction Services, Inc.
Paris Otremba
POOtremba@pcl.com

Missouri

**ACE Mentor Program of
Greater Kansas City, Inc.**
KansasCityMO@acementor.org

KH Engineering Group
Michael Lancey
Michael.Lancey@gmail.com

**ACE Mentor Program of St. Louis,
MO, Inc.**
StLouisMO@acementor.org

Jacobs - Global Buildings
Amy Phillips
amyannphillips@gmail.com

New Hampshire

**ACE Mentor Program of Granite
State, Inc.**

Gilbane Building Company
AJ Giglio
agiglio@gilbaneco.com

New Jersey

**ACE Mentor Program of
New Jersey, Inc.**
NewJersey@acementor.org

Thornton Tomasetti
M. Cristina Martinez
MMartinez@ThorntonTomasetti.com

New Mexico

**ACE Mentor Program of Southern,
NM, Inc.**
SouthernNM@acementor.org

Williams Design Group, Inc.
Gary Williams
garyw@williamsdesigngroup.biz

New York

**ACE Mentor Program of Greater
New York, Inc.**
greaterny@acementor.org
NYC@acementor.org

Annika Smith
annika@acementorny.org

**ACE Mentor Program of Upstate
New York, Inc.**
Albany
AlbanyNY@acementor.org

Gilbane Building Company
Nadera Persaud
npersaud@gilbaneco.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Upstate
New York, Inc.**
Rochester
RochesterNY@acementor.org

La Bella Associates
Michael Short
mshort@labellapc.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Upstate
New York, Inc.**
Syracuse
SyracuseNY@acementor.org

Gilbane Building Company
Nadera Persaud
npersaud@gilbaneco.com



North Carolina

**ACE Mentor Program of Raleigh/
Durham, Inc.**
RaleighDurhamNC@acementor.org

Bovis Lend Lease, Inc.
Reid Miller
Reid.Miller@bovislendlease.com

**ACE Mentor Program of
Greater Charlotte Metro-NC, Inc.**
CharlotteNC@acementor.org

Crescent Resources
Jenny Vallimont
JVallimont@Crescent-Resources.com

Ohio

**ACE Mentor Program of
Cincinnati, Inc.**
CincinnatiOH@acementor.org

**ACE Mentor Program of Cleveland,
OH, Inc.**
ClevelandOH@acementor.org

Gilbane Building Company
Thomas Laird
tlaird@gilbaneco.com

Gilbane Building Company
Courtney Behm
cbehm@gilbaneco.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Central,
OH, Inc. (Columbus)**
ColumbusOH@acementor.org

Turner Construction Company
Brian Moran
bmoran@tcco.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Toledo,
OH, Inc.**
ToledoOH@acementor.org

DGL Consulting Engineers
Steve Way
sway@dgl-ltd.com

Oregon

ACE Mentor Program of Oregon, Inc.
Oregon@acementor.org

Nishkian Dean
Brooke Kind
brooke.kind@nishkian.com

Pennsylvania

**ACE Mentor Program of Central
Pennsylvania, Inc.**

Century Engineering Inc.
Tim Przybylowski
tprzybylowski@centuryeng.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Central
Pennsylvania, Inc.**
PA Cumberland County
CumberlandCountyPA@acementor.org

R.S. Mowery & Sons, Inc.
Perry Heath
pheath@rsmowery.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Central
Pennsylvania, Inc.**
PA Dauphin County
DauphinCountyPA@acementor.org

Hershey Entertainment
Tess Zeigler
tzeigler@hersheypa.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Central
Pennsylvania, Inc.**
PA Lancaster County
LancasterCountyPA@acementor.org

Wohlsen Construction Company
Marcie Sober
msorber@wohlsen.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Central
Pennsylvania, Inc.**
PA York County
YorkCountyPA@acementor.org

C.S. Davidson, Inc.
Ami Miller
alm@csdavidson.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Eastern
Pennsylvania, Inc.**
EasternPA@acementor.org

O'Donnell & Naccarato, Inc.
Anthony Naccarato
anaccarato@o-n.com



Heidi VanSteenburgh
easternpa@acementor.org

**ACE Mentor Program of
 Lehigh Valley, PA, Inc.**
LehighValleyPA@acementor.org

Langan Engineering
 Jason Engelhardt
Jengelhardt@langan.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Western
 Pennsylvania, Inc.**
WesternPA@acementor.org

Oxford Development Company
 Michael Barnard
mbarnard@oxforddevelopment.com

Rhode Island

**ACE Mentor Program of
 Rhode Island, Inc.**
ProvidenceRI@acementor.org

Weston & Sampson
 Mark Remillard
remillardm@gmail.com

San Juan, Puerto Rico

**ACE Mentor Program of San Juan,
 Puerto Rico**

CSA Group
 Loretta Garcia
 Presidenta Junta de Directores
lgarcia@csagroup.com

South Carolina

**ACE Mentor Program of Greater
 Charleston**
CharlestonSC@acementor.org

Charleston Engineering
 Rob Turner
rob@charlestonengineering.com

Tennessee

**ACE Mentor Program of Tennessee,
 Inc. (Nashville)**
NashvilleTN@acementor.org

Thomas Miller Partners
 Alan Hayes
ahayes@tmpartners.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Chattanooga
 and SE Tennessee, Inc.**
ChattanoogaTN@acementor.org

Civil Smith
 Tara Maner
tmaner@civilsmithllc.com

Texas

ACE Mentoring of DFW, Inc.
DallasFortWorthTX@acementor.org

Bury + Partners
 Stephanie Laughlin
slaughlin@burypartners.com

**ACE Mentor Program of Houston,
 TX, Inc.**

HoustonTX@acementor.org
 Skanska USA Building
 Joe Klich
Houstontx@acementor.org

**ACE Mentor Program of Greater
 San Antonio, Inc.**
SanAntonioTX@acementor.org

Ford Powell & Carson
 Laura Elvia Hernández
lhernandez@fpcarch.com

Virginia

**ACE Mentor Program of Central
 Virginia, Inc.**
RichmondVA@acementor.org

W.M. Jordan Company
 Glenn A. Thompson
gthompson@wmjordan.com

Washington

ACE Mentor Program of Washington, Inc.
SeattleWA@acementor.org

Magnusson Klemencic Associates
 Jon Magnusson
jdm@mka.com

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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.

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www.limbachinc.com



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RailWorks Corporation

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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.

National Center for Construction Education and Innovation (NCCER)

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



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Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)

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Construction Industry Round Table

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Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT)

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.

ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc.

150 S. Washington St.,
Suite 303
Falls Church, VA 22046
Office: 703.942.8101
Fax: 703.942.8651
www.acementor.org



