



**"The Process"**

- ✓ Project Introduction
  - ✓ Meeting with Ownership
- ✓ Teaming
- ✓ Multidisciplinary Design Charrettes
- ✓ Coordination
- ✓ Request-for-Information (RFI)
  - ✓ Q/A w/ Ownership
- ✓ Design Finalization
- ✓ Tower Hall



ENR's Annual

# ACE Mentor Program Yearbook 2020

*Reflecting on ACE's Resiliency and Creativity*



CMiC DISTRIBUTES

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PROGRAM OF AMERICA.

CMiC — the most complete ERP and FIELD operations software platform for construction management — in 2020 has distributed a total of \$400,000 in scholarships to 23 high school students across 23 states. In its 2nd year, the CMiC - Allen Berg Memorial Scholarships were presented in partnership with the ACE Mentor Program of America. "The scholarships are a real 'career booster' for some of the most talented and promising of our thousands of students," said ACE's president Diana Eidenshink. "Many of them come from families with limited means. Some scholarship winners are the first in their family to attend college. We expect them to be industry standouts during their careers."



*In memory of CMiC's founder, the CMiC-Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship grant will support 23 students as they pursue post-secondary programs in architecture, engineering and construction.*

The grant was established back in 2018 in memory of late CMiC founder, Allen S. Berg. The spirit of the grant is to preserve and extend Mr. Berg's rich legacy. "Allen was a lifelong learner, devoted to educational and community causes," says Judith Berg, Chairwoman of the CMiC Board of Directors. "This scholarship in his memory will carry on his legacy as an advocate for equal opportunities to drive positive change in the world."

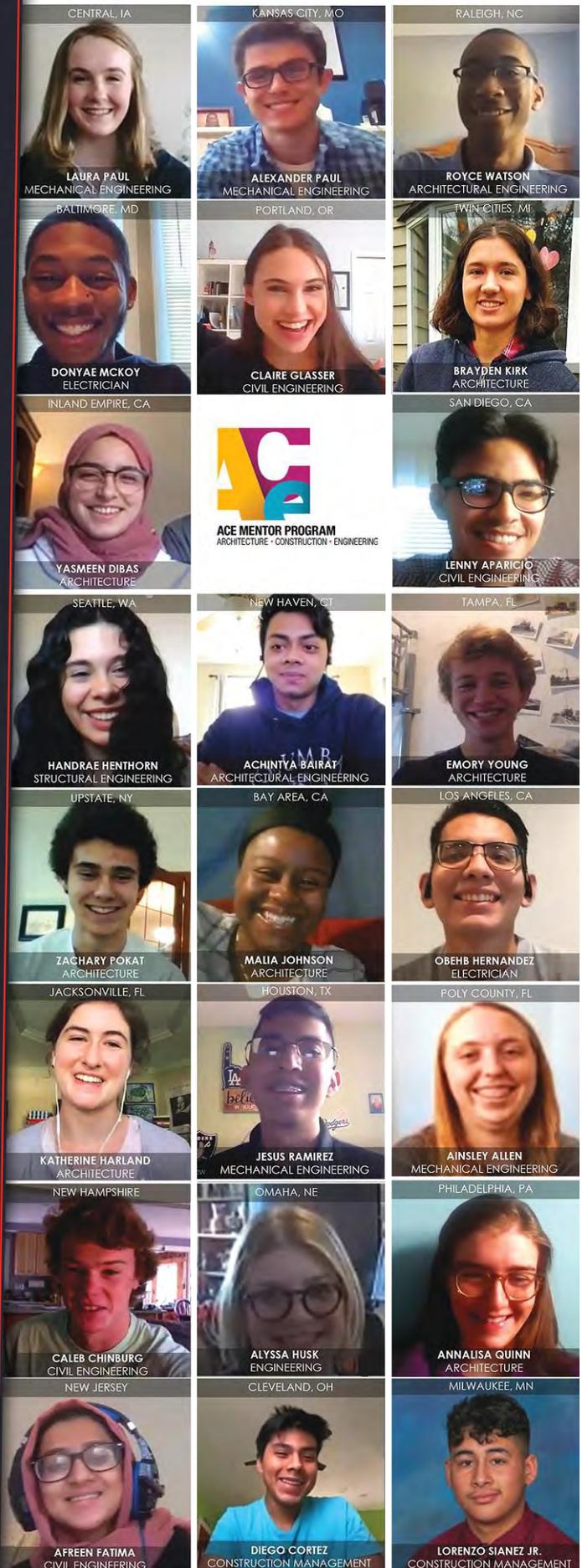
Scholarship recipients were selected on the basis of merit and financial need. This fall, they will enroll in accredited college programs in architecture, construction, interior design and engineering. Winners were notified this year via a Zoom video conference announcement.

"We congratulate the exceptional students who were awarded this year's scholarships," says Jeff Weiss, Chief Revenue Officer at CMiC. "We look forward to following their journeys and successes as they grow into professionals in the AEC industry."

The scholarships are a part of CMiC's broader commitment to corporate social responsibility.



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## A Message From the Chairman

**Recent events prove once again the power of the ACE Mentor Program,** and the extraordinary creativity and commitment of our mentors.

The ACE program had a strong year thanks to everyone from our sponsors and ACE staff to mentors and school champions pulling together. I had the opportunity to watch many of the virtual end-of-year presentations, and I was so impressed by the capabilities of our young people. Students and mentors nimbly pivoted to a virtual environment and opened the door to new ways to share their ideas. Our 76 affiliates did an outstanding job of organizing effective mentorship for our more than 10,000 students.

ACE mentors are the catalysts for our industry's future. The impact these individuals have on students over the course of 15 weeks ripples through our industry year after year, as these young people graduate from high school, attend college or trade school, intern with our firms and eventually join as full-time employees.

Our many sponsors were asked to help out this year, both financially and operationally. Their donations of virtual meeting tools and specially prepared videos went a long way toward making 2019/2020 a successful year.

As many of our students moved to the next phase of their learning, we were also able to help them with

scholarships. Along with the generous CMiC Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship program, ACE was able to award well over \$2 million in scholarships.

As we look ahead, the pandemic won't be a barrier to progress. We'll have to adapt our program in the near future to protect the safety and health of everyone. This past spring's experience gives me confidence that we can deliver a meaningful virtual mentoring program.

ACE is all about community and opportunity. As you'll see in the following pages, we are harnessing industry professionals' desire to give back, recruiting the next generation of AEC professionals and helping to diversify our workforce.

Join us as we celebrate the year's accomplishments. We hope these stories from affiliates, mentors and students inspire you both personally and professionally, as they do all of us.



### **Peter J. Davoren**

*Chairman, ACE National Board,  
2017–Present*

*President and CEO, Turner Construction Co.*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- ◆ ACE Adapts Amid Adversity ◆ Anniversary Affiliates Demonstrate Flexibility ◆ ACE Outstanding Mentors 2020
- ◆ Virtual 2020 CIRT Competition Finals Spotlight Next-Gen Talent ◆ ACE Awards Another \$400K in Scholarships
- ◆ An Interview with ACE President Diana Eidenshink



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# ACE Adapts Amid Adversity

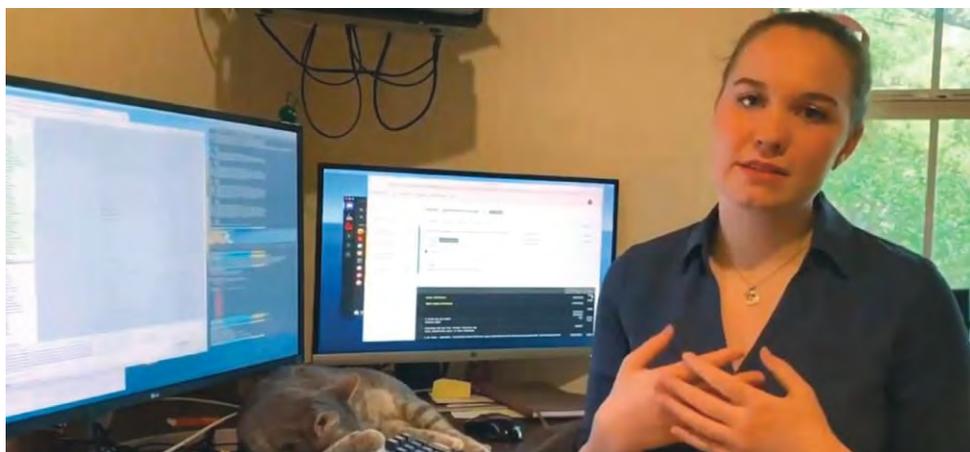
Despite global events, the ACE Mentor Program enjoyed another strong year with more than 10,000 students mentored by 4,200 mentors in 76 affiliates across the United States. In fact, when the COVID-19 virus threatened the high school mentoring program, mentors, students and sponsors responded with speed and ingenuity—the very characteristics we've come to expect from this impressive group of individuals.

“Despite these rapidly changing times, ACE staff and mentors kept a clear focus on our organization’s mission and found extraordinary ways to continue the program virtually and guide students into design and construction careers,” says ACE Mentor Program President Diana Eidenshink.

## Rolling Response

In response to the rolling shutdown of schools and businesses across the country, the ACE National office staff quickly adapted to fast-track several programs that would help sponsors, mentors and students stay connected.

One of these programs is ACE Student Resources Online. With support from national sponsors and a



When the pandemic threatened one of the nation's top after-school programs, mentors and sponsors provided students with new opportunities to learn about the industry.

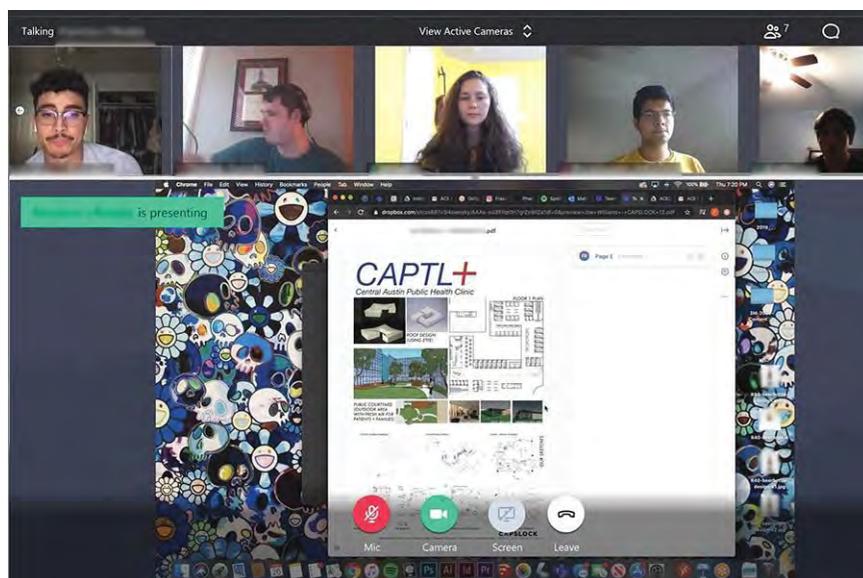
grant from **Lendlease**, this web-based, multifaceted collection of practical information for students was up and running several months ahead of schedule. The website gathers industry-related information, professional development guidance, self-directed activities and tools to help students prepare for post-secondary education.

Another program is the brand-new, multipart ACE@Home that was rolled out episodically beginning in late May, just two months after the COVID shutdown. Developed in

collaboration with several affiliates, this optional, self-directed mini-ACE program teaches students professional development skills and also introduces them to technical topics. Each session features a prerecorded 15- to 20-minute video by mentors and other experts,

*“Despite these rapidly changing times, ACE staff and mentors kept a clear focus on our organization’s mission.”*

—Diana Eidenshink, President, ACE Mentor Program



Many students and mentors moved in-person group project meetings to virtual environments to complete design and development and eventually give presentations.

together with follow-up challenges for students to undertake on their own.

**Greater Philadelphia** mentors helped develop a session on essay writing. The **Washington, D.C., Metro Area** affiliate created a virtual construction project walkthrough together with a crossword puzzle. A **Charlotte** mentor demonstrated some of the programs (Revit and Enscape) that architects use to develop drawings and renderings to show clients. **Central Florida** mentors

produced a virtual overview of various technologies used in the design and construction industry to communicate and document projects, including BIM modeling, laser scanning, use of drones and programs such as Navisworks, while the **San Francisco** affiliate created a session titled Becoming an Architect. Almost 2,500 unique users have logged into the ACE@Home offering since its launch.

## The brand-new, multipart ACE@Home was rolled out beginning in late May.

As well, since ACE's usual in-person summer activities were cancelled, the National office searched out alternate virtual summer programs. The Fallingwater Institute offered gratis a weeklong session exclusively for 12 ACE students to learn about design and architecture. **Gensler** also funded a second session of the Fallingwater virtual camp. The



required materials were mailed to students. Once received, expert instructors led group discussions, presented challenging, independent projects and provided individualized feedback to help each student develop design skills.

Two **Los Angeles** affiliate mentors offered another virtual summer activity for ACE students around the country. They created a two-part introduction and training about SketchUp that ran twice to eager young audiences.

Other summer activities included webinars by **Autodesk** introducing students to future construction industry technologies. **Procore** taught students how to read plans and use building information software tools. In addition, Syracuse University in New York and Thomas Jefferson University in Pennsylvania both developed a variety of virtual programs.

ACE National further posted fresh content for mentors and affiliate

## Virtual ACE in Action: Charlotte Shifts

Working closely with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, the **Charlotte** affiliate was able to seamlessly shift five of its seven teams to virtual activities. With help from ACE National's GoToMeeting subscriptions, the affiliate enabled virtual meetings for five of the original seven teams (two opted to not move forward).

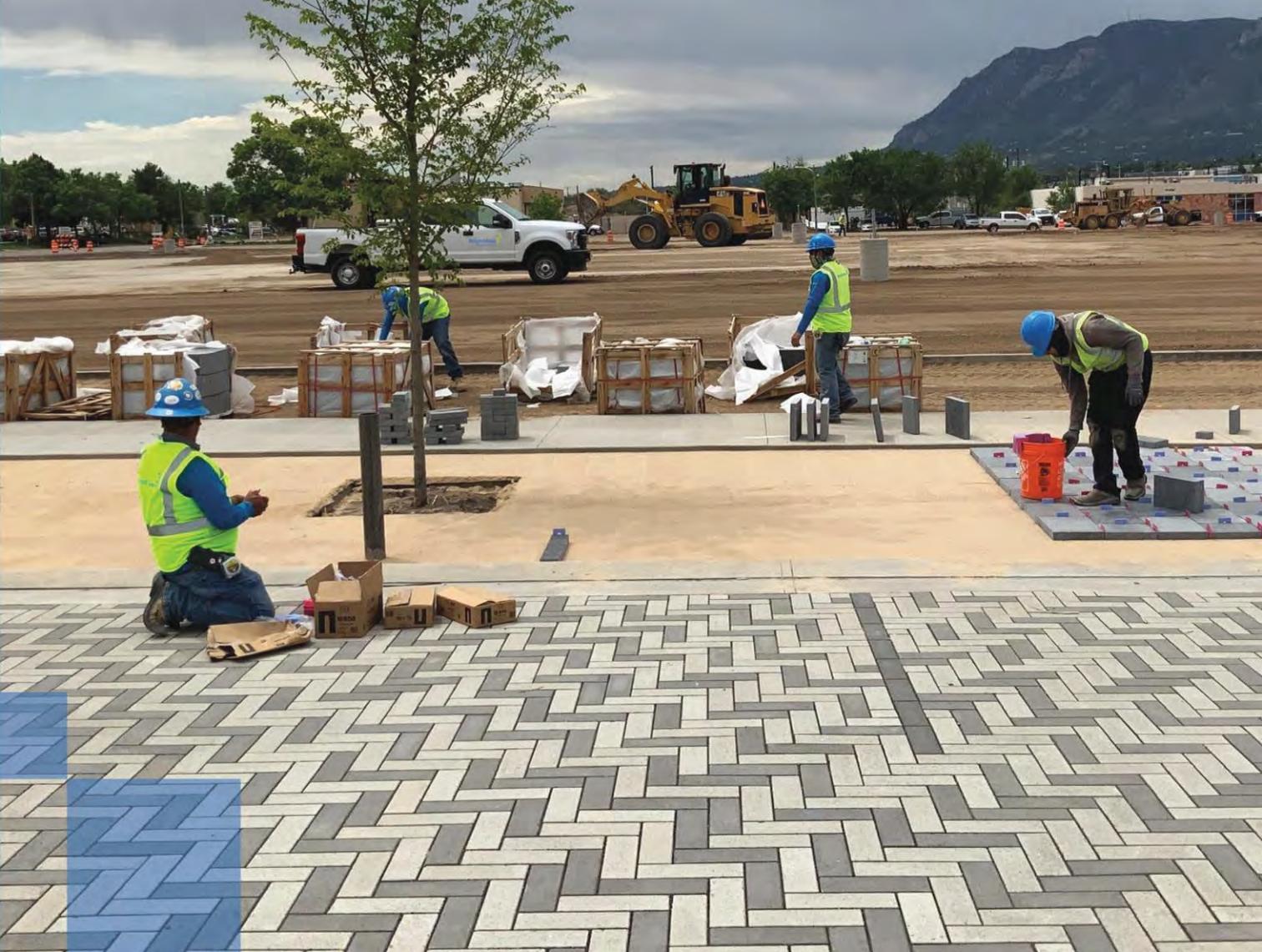
With the cancellation of its annual end-of-year in-person banquet, the affiliate adopted a hybrid virtual banquet for the presentations and scholarships with prepackaged materials uploaded to YouTube Premieres, a program that lets viewers experience an event as if it's live.

ACE Charlotte Board Chair Matthew Lilly says, "The virtual nature of our presentation competition for best design gave us a unique opportunity to expand our judge pool. We had as judges a local general contractor, a professor from Clemson University and an architect from Boston whose firm worked on the project, which was the basis for the end-of-year project RFP. It's unlikely that we would have gotten all three of them to an in-person banquet. They all really

enjoyed having a bit more time to review the presentations and offer constructive feedback."

As well, board and committee members announced the scholarships and offered personal congratulatory messages to students in videos. Charlotte awarded seven post-secondary scholarships for \$3,000 each, as well as two scholarships for underclassmen to attend the design camp at University of North Carolina at Charlotte, which went virtual this year. Lilly adds, "We shifted expenses that we would otherwise have used for the banquet to scholarship funds, allowing us to give the largest total money in the program's history."

While Lilly hopes that the program will return to in-person meetings in the fall, he is pleased with the lessons learned from the past few months. He concludes, "An important part of ACE is the direct interaction with mentors and students. But it is nice to know that we have a virtual plan in our back pocket so that we can hit the ground running this next year if needed." ♦



# WE BUILD BETTER TOGETHER

Watching students grow is an incredibly rewarding part of our involvement in the ACE Mentor program; yet what's even more gratifying is seeing how the diversity of our profession has grown, too. We're better when we build together, in an environment that welcomes everyone. That's why BrightView continues to support the ACE Mentor program—because mentorship doesn't just change the life of one student, it changes the entire industry.

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board members to help with virtual fundraising and presentations. All of these and other initiatives were partially enabled thanks to free licenses provided by GoToMeeting to support ACE virtual activities. In total, ACE estimates that teams spent more than 575 hours working together on the virtual platform. Affiliates, mentors and students spent even more time on other platforms.

### Virtual Boots on the Ground

From California to Maine, Washington to Florida, mentors adroitly transformed normal in-person

activities—including ACE programming, final presentations, scholarship awards and mentor/sponsor recognitions—into virtual versions.

The COVID shutdown occurred when many affiliates normally organize final presentation events showcasing students' projects. Virtual events by **Milwaukee, Northeast Florida** and numerous other affiliates worked well. Parents, teachers, students and mentors could clearly view the projects and listen to student descriptions. Many parents even reported that they were able to join these events for the first time because they were virtual. Some

presentations were prerecorded, while others were live. Judges were able to make comments and raise questions.

**ACE estimates that teams spent more than 575 hours working together on the GoToMeeting virtual platform. Affiliates, mentors and students spent even more time on other platforms.**

## Virtual ACE in Action: Agile in Austin

Completing just its fourth year, the **Austin** affiliate has fast become a strong and versatile ACE program, a skillset much-needed to cope with this year's challenges. Austin area schools moved to virtual education during spring break in March.

Christine Sheng, Austin affiliate chair and client director for Rogers-O'Brien Construction Co.'s Austin/San Antonio region, says, "Over the course of that one week, all 12 of our ACE teams were up and running with GoToMeeting accounts to facilitate meetings between students and mentors."

To make sure all ACE students had access to a computer and Wi-Fi, the affiliate worked closely with the school district, which had turned school buses into Wi-Fi hotspots, to ensure that ACE student neighborhoods received coverage.

With help from a videographer, all final presentation videos, which were individually recorded by students and mentors, were compiled and uploaded to YouTube. Enthusiastic students, family and friends—totaling more than 400—participated in the final presentation, which included interactive games and polls with gift card prizes for winning answers.

The affiliate opted for a more personal approach to distribute \$25,000 in scholarships. Adrianna Hong, associate with **Gensler** and incoming Austin affiliate vice chair, says, "Much like Publisher's Clearinghouse, we printed out large checks

*"Over the course of that one week, all 12 of our ACE teams were up and running with GoToMeeting accounts to facilitate meetings between students and mentors."*

—Christine Sheng, Chair,  
Austin Affiliate

and visited each student's home to deliver them in person. For our named scholarships, we also invited a C-level executive to join us at the presentation. This was a great way for our sponsors to experience first-hand the significance of their contribution to the ACE Mentor Program." ♦

As part of the regular mentoring sessions, two Seattle mentors, one with **Skanska** and the other with LMN Architecture, created virtual tours, with commentary, of three Skanska jobsites, including a school and 40-story high-rise. As well, the **Portland, Ore.**, affiliate added "office hour" sessions to its virtual mentoring experience. During these optional sessions, mentors explained their career paths and requirements for their professions, and answered questions from students.



Traditional in-person events to recognize mentors moved to virtual get-togethers.

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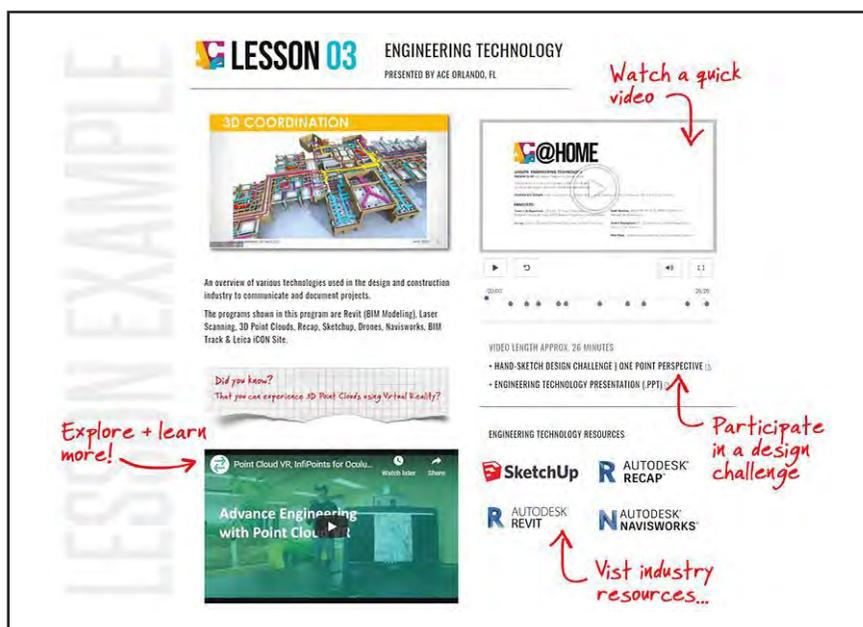
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One North Carolina student noted: “I was surprised yet also pleased by how well my team was able to continue collaborating and working on our project. We were able to meet in big groups with the whole team and also break into smaller groups to work on specific areas of the project.”

Some affiliates, including **Charlotte** and **Central Florida**, also devised virtual banquets to honor sponsors, host student presentations and recognize outstanding mentors.

**Baltimore** organized a social media campaign over an entire day to celebrate the affiliate’s 2020 accomplishments, showcase team presentations and highlight sponsors. During this virtual ACE Day, mentors, students, industry partners and even alumni participated. One ACE alum wrote on the affiliate’s Facebook page: “ACE Baltimore equipped me with the connections, knowledge and tools to continue my STEM pursuits. My time participating



The ACE@Home series included virtual technology demonstrations, such as BIM modeling, laser scanning and the use of drones.

in the program encouraged me to collaborate with my peers, think critically and be creative.”

### Creative Campaigning

The pandemic further forced the cancellation of many fundraising

## By the Numbers: ACE and Virtual Reality

As part of its annual student survey, ACE National asked students to evaluate their virtual ACE experiences. Overall, almost 40% of students (about 3,500) across the country participated in some type of virtual activity. Roughly 90% of these students joined online mentoring sessions, and slightly more than 50% took part in final presentation and scholarship award events. Another 10% of students benefitted from other special activities organized by their mentors or affiliates; for example, SketchUp lessons and special presentations by mentors about their careers and professions. Of all the students in ACE who were given an opportunity to participate in the program virtually, only 6% opted out.

According to ACE’s end-of-year student survey:

- 70% agreed that virtual sessions were an effective learning

environment for them.

- 69% agreed that virtual sessions were an effective way to collaborate with their team members.
- A slim majority (56%) said that ACE should consider incorporating virtual sessions and learning tools into the regular program.
- A slim minority (42%) felt that virtual sessions allowed them or their team to do things that they couldn’t do during in-person meetings.

\*Note: More than one-fifth (21%) of students had already completed the regular ACE program before the COVID-19 shutdown.

### Student Comments

Students expressed a range of views about their virtual experience and ways to improve the sessions. Many students reported that working on their computers at home during

virtual sessions allowed them to access programs and information in a way not easily possible during in-person sessions. Other students missed the dynamics of in-person meetings and the opportunity to make actual models.

The following comments reflect the largely positive observations of students:

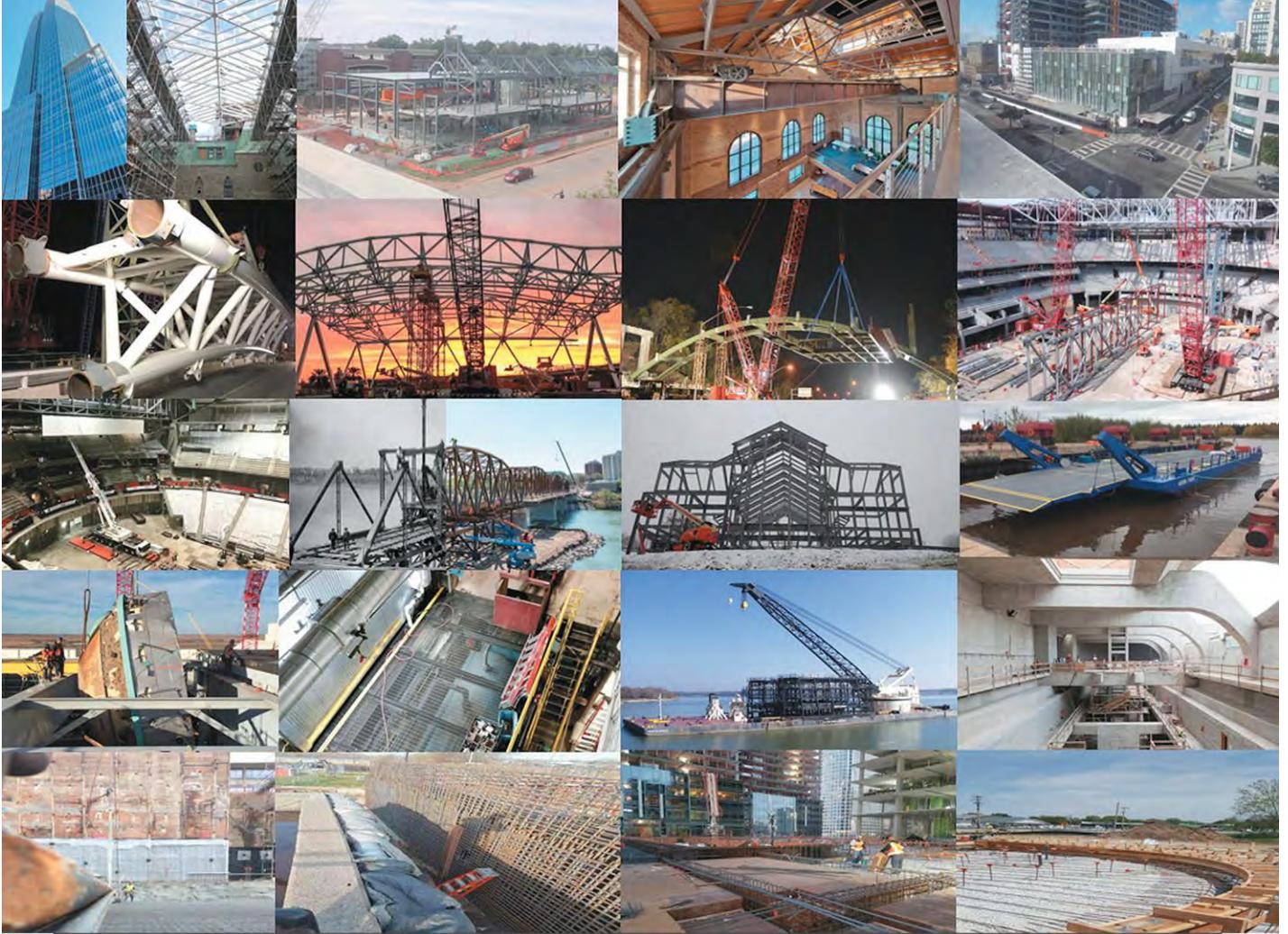
*“Virtual tools allowed me to collaborate with team members during times that I wouldn’t otherwise be able to.”*  
—Greater New York Affiliate student

*“Once each group knows what works for their participants and adapts from that information, virtual sessions are very effective.”*  
—Seattle student

*“We had more access to our computers and could all work on projects at the same time.”*  
—Austin, Texas, student

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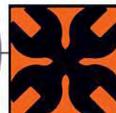
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## Virtual ACE in Action: Savvy in Seattle

All 11 teams in the **Washington** state affiliate transitioned to virtual programming and presentations for the final weeks of ACE.

Affiliate Executive Director Angela Gottula Twining says, "The most successful teams knew how to use the technology to their advantage. These mentors were technology savvy and upbeat, finding ways to make their online meetings fun and engaging—and it showed in student and parent responses."

While most mentor teams used Zoom, meeting types varied depending on the mentor. Some teams dove into more specialized discussions for an hour, then broke out into disciplines so students could work on design projects. Some teams eliminated whole-team meetings

altogether, and the disciplines met at a day and time convenient for all. Other teams abandoned the 2-hour, biweekly meeting and instead met for 1 hour every week.

Regardless of the method, the sessions worked. Twining points to one parent's email: "Thank you so much for keeping this going despite the hurdles and work involved. My son naturally lost all of his afterschool sports and activities, and it makes me so happy that he actually has something! We are so grateful to you and the team for making it happen. Truly."

Final presentations were broadcast over a week thanks largely to **Mortenson**, which acquired a Zoom license to host all presentations plus the scholarship event. The affiliate awarded \$100,000 to 14 students. ♦

events usually organized at the end of the program year. A few affiliates did substitute virtual activities to raise scholarship dollars. For example, the **Austin** affiliate benefited from

*"My time participating in the program encouraged me to collaborate with my peers, think critically and be creative."*

—Baltimore Alum

a **Gensler**-organized virtual trivial pursuit competition that raised \$1,000. The **Boston** affiliate set up a text-to-donate and peer-to-peer donation campaign through Give Lively. As



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“Leading by example, delivers increased participation by ACE Mentor students.”  
– **Kevin Brown**, E.I.T., *Construction Manager*, Urban Engineers

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well, the affiliate ran a 20 Days of ACE campaign to encourage sponsors to give virtually. It culminated in sponsor

thank you and recruitment events online for students and parents. To celebrate scholarship winners,

the **Houston** and **Cleveland** affiliates developed special virtual presentations. Many affiliates also highlighted

## Virtual ACE in Action: Nimble in New York

All teams from the **Greater New York** affiliate began meeting virtually effective March 16 through April 15.

Affiliate leaders reached out to GoToMeeting for help. In response, the web-hosting service company provided 53 free accounts—51 for teams and two for staff.

Affiliate Executive Director Sue Veres Royal adds, “We worked with our teachers at our schools to recommend virtual teaching techniques and tips for our mentors to follow as they conducted the ACE program.”

Throughout the summer of 2020, the Greater New York affiliate also developed six higher-education webinars. For instance, representatives from several New York City universities offered guidance to graduating high school seniors and introduced the AEC programs at their schools. Especially popular were the webinars by Greater New York alumni who



are currently enrolled in university architecture, engineering and construction management programs.

When asked about online mentoring, one Greater New York student liked the idea, commenting, “It seemed like the group was more connected to each other in the virtual meeting than in real life.”

Throughout May 2020, Greater New York students presented their final project designs virtually. The affiliate also turned its annual ACE Mentor Appreciation Ball into a virtual event. ♦

IMAGE: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM



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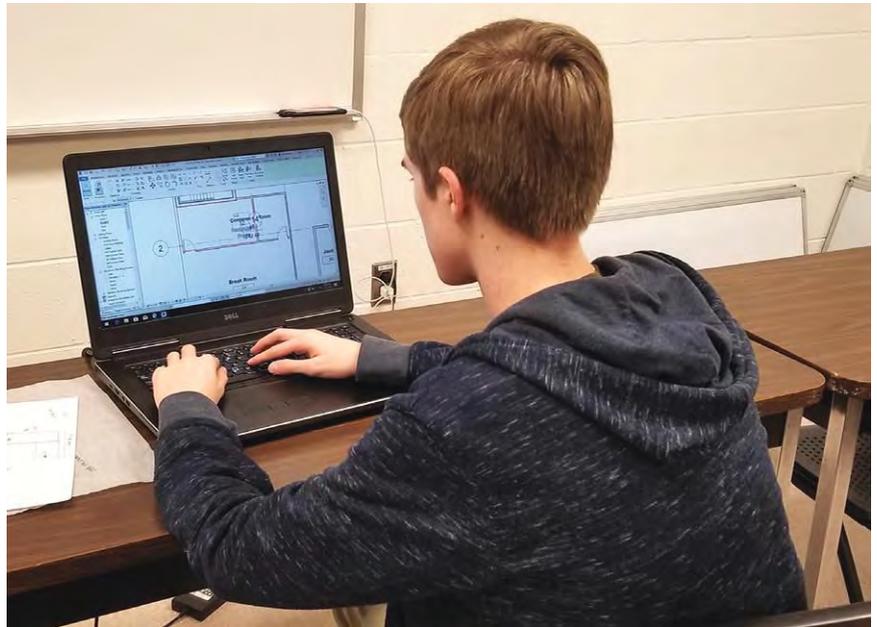
scholarship winners on social media. Mentors from the **Twin Cities** and **Austin** affiliates visited scholarship winners' homes and presented giant checks to the surprised recipients.

**Virtual Future?**

Will virtual sessions become part of future ACE programming? Some students and mentors like the idea.

One Seattle student says, "I would definitely recommend substituting some of the in-person, year-round regular meetings for virtual meetings since this allows for accessibility. A lot of my friends are unable to participate in ACE due to transportation difficulties and at-home responsibilities. Having meetings online works with these students and allows them to participate without having to worry about high parking costs or inaccessible bus routes."

Eidenshink believes that the lessons learned and effectiveness of virtual programming this past year will likely



During virtual mentoring sessions, students were introduced to software tools such as AutoCAD that are commonly used in the industry.

inform future ACE programming. Looking back at the past year, she concludes, "The response from mentors

all over the country during the pandemic was inspiring and creative. They really stepped up to the plate to help students and keep the program going, adapting



2019 Jenga Tournament - ACE Mentor Charlotte

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*"The response from mentors all over the country during the pandemic was inspiring and creative. They really stepped up to the plate to help students and keep the program going, adapting with speed and agility despite adversity."*

—Diana Eidenshink, President, ACE Mentor Program

with speed and agility despite adversity. This is a tribute to them, the students; our sponsors for providing the necessary support; and our industry." ♦

IMAGE: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM



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## ACE ALUMNI MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

### JuanRaymon Rubio Architectural Intern Architexas

The son of an electrical technician, JuanRaymon knew a little bit about construction from his father, and he enjoyed his drafting class in his junior year—but he was leaning toward a career in fine arts, until his advisor recommended that he participate in the ACE Mentor Program.

JuanRaymon says, “She wanted me to learn more about the industry and the profession. Prior to that, I’d never been to an architect’s office or understood the profession’s role in the industry.”

That all changed after he joined the ACE **Chicago** affiliate, which happened to meet in an architect’s office. “I realized that it’s not a solo job of just drawing up ideas,” JuanRaymon recalls. “Architects are key members of a team that includes structural engineers, construction managers and analysts all working together to find a feasible solution.”

With an ACE scholarship in hand, JuanRaymon attended Texas Tech University from 2011–2016, earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture. Along the way, he was further helped with alumni scholarships

*“One of the biggest impacts of ACE is for minority students to see themselves represented in these fields. That builds belief.”*

from the Chicago affiliate. He went to work for Architexas in Texas immediately after graduation and joined the **ACE Austin** affiliate as a mentor. By the second year in the program, JuanRaymon was a lead mentor.

He concludes, “One of the biggest impacts of ACE is for minority students to see themselves represented in these fields. That builds belief.” ♦

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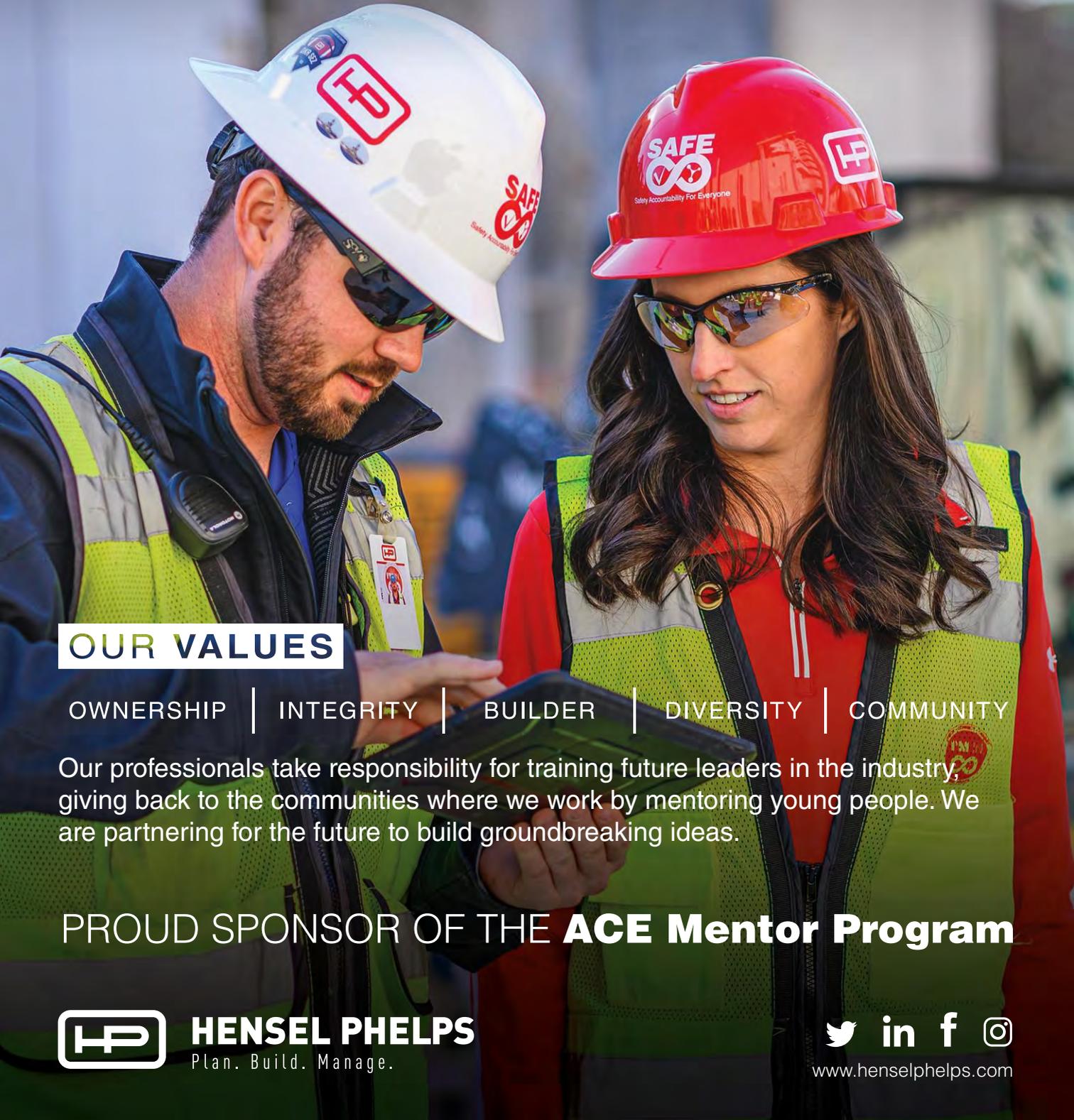
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## Affiliates Celebrating 20-Year Anniversaries Demonstrate Flexibility in Longevity

Among three of ACE Mentor Program's oldest affiliates, the Chicago, Greater Philadelphia and Greater Washington Metropolitan Area affiliates have gone through considerable evolution over two decades. They've grown in terms of students, mentors, support and, most especially, in the way they engage and excite young people about the construction industry. The following highlights some of the creative ways these 20-year affiliates are expanding the reach of ACE.

### Chicago Longevity

The ACE Chicago affiliate currently sustains more than 200 students from 36 Chicago public schools, 200 mentors and 73 dedicated host firms. Through the generous support of its industry partners, the affiliate has annually provided around \$190,000 in college scholarships in recent years.

This milestone year was made even more special when the Foster Epstein Moreno Joint Venture for the O'Hare

Global Terminal Design Competition donated its \$50,000 competition stipend to the affiliate. The joint venture selected two students for \$10,000 and \$20,000 scholarships, and reserved the remaining funds for scholarships in 2021.

The affiliate's fundraising luncheon is one of the most well-attended industry-related events in Chicago. More than 800 individuals joined this year's luncheon, held March 6, to help raise more than \$360,000 for the program.

Last year, the affiliate piloted an alumni scholarship program and committed to giving \$50,000 annually to these students. During the past 15 years, Chicago has also developed a robust summer internship program. Already more than 250 paid internships have been facilitated since the program's start.

### Greater Philadelphia (Formerly Eastern Pennsylvania)

The ACE Greater Philadelphia affiliate is particularly proud of its

ability to reach and retain students from 69 school partners that include public, charter, magnet, private, catholic and home schools. The affiliate's territory covers two states—Pennsylvania (Philadelphia plus Montgomery, Delaware and Chester counties) and southern New Jersey (Camden and Cumberland counties).

Tiffany Millner, affiliate executive director, believes that part of the reason for the commitment by students is the fun and interactive activities that the affiliate has created over the years. One of the most popular is the annual Giant Jenga Tournament. Attended by more than 350 people at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum, this year's round-robin tournament attracted 64 four-person teams that competed in a supersized version of the tabletop wooden block game, Jenga. The event netted more than \$30,000 for the affiliate and its scholarship program for current high school seniors and alumni. With the help of Greater Philadelphia's how-to manual, several other ACE affiliates have since begun their own tournaments.

For its milestone anniversary, the group awarded more than \$40,000 in

## New and Emerging Affiliates

In fall 2020, the ACE Mentor Program will start two new affiliates.

Established under the leadership of CMiC, the Toronto affiliate—the first outside the United States—will conduct a virtual pilot program focusing on a Toronto infrastructure project. As well, an Atlanta affiliate mentor has taken ACE to her hometown of Savannah.

Elsewhere in the South, the Greater Knoxville, Tenn., affiliate completed its first year. The University of Tennessee architecture school dean, who chairs the affiliate board, started the affiliate after he realized that many of his top students were ACE graduates.

The Richmond, Va., affiliate was an in-school program its first year but will be an afterschool program this fall.

In the Central region, the West Michigan affiliate in Grand Rapids completed its second year with 22 students led by 26 mentors. The affiliate awarded three scholarships totaling \$6,500.

The Southern Minnesota affiliate in Mankato and Northwest Iowa affiliate in Spencer both finished solid second years, expanding the number of students engaged. Over the two years, Southern Minnesota reached 22 students, and Northwest Iowa served 28 students.

The Western New York affiliate in Buffalo designed and built a permanent pergola structure at its school to complement the large picnic tables built by students during the program's first year. ♦



The Greater Philadelphia's annual Giant Jenga Tournament is an affiliate-wide favorite event.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

scholarships to senior students currently studying AEC degree majors. Since its inception, Greater Philadelphia has awarded more than \$681,500 in scholarships.

As well, the affiliate continues to expand its curriculum to include the trades. For example, this year Norr Group, Pullman Services and the **International Masonry Institute** organized a hands-on bricklaying workshop.

### Greater Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area

The ACE Mentor Program of the Greater Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area (ACE DC) supports more than 220 students from the District of Columbia, five surrounding Maryland and Virginia counties, and the city of Alexandria.

From its first annual ACE DC Gingerbread House Competition to this year's Digital Design Showcase, the affiliate has demonstrated the

many ways it has maintained an active program over the past two decades.

The Gingerbread House Competition was particularly popular and included sustainable features, such as chocolate solar panels and a broccoli green roof for houses in a Grinch-themed neighborhood.

Created because of the pandemic, the affiliate's Digital Design Showcase provided a unique opportunity for all of the teams to submit their projects in PDF form. They were then compiled into a video for viewing on the website and social media. These professional-looking presentations were reviewed by the mentors who provided feedback.

Besides its annual scholarships for high school students—a total of \$740,000 to 230 students to date—ACE DC several years ago started to award scholarships to alumni. This year, the program awarded \$64,000 in scholarships to 13 high school seniors and two alumni in college. ♦

## Milestone Moments

The following ACE affiliates also celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2020.

### 15 Years

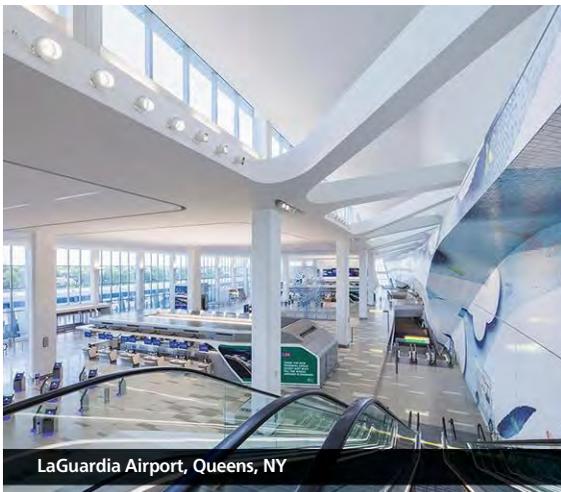
Birmingham, Ala.  
Central Iowa  
Eastern Shore, Md.  
Frederick, Md.

### 10 Years

Annapolis, Md.  
Columbus, Ohio  
Delaware  
New Orleans  
Rochester, N.Y.  
Tampa  
Twin Cities

### 5 Years

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Southern Nevada  
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## ACE ALUMNAE MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

### Holly Horton Architectural Associate Davy Architecture

As a student at Santana High School in Santee, Calif., Holly was involved in an architectural design class. When her instructor and counselor introduced the ACE Mentor Program in her sophomore year, she signed up.

Beyond helping define the role that the architect plays in the construction process, Holly says, "ACE affirmed my career choice in design and project leadership."

Holly was awarded a \$25,000 ACE scholarship to attend the NewSchool of Architecture + Design in San Diego. This, along with merit scholarships and grants, helped pay most of her tuition. She graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture and minor in construction management in June 2020.

Upon graduation, Holly went to work for one of her mentors, Ric Davy, senior principle at Davy Architecture and strong **ACE San Diego** supporter. Several of the firm's architects are also mentors for ACE.

Almost immediately, Holly looked to give back to ACE San Diego. She says, "Our high school lost funding for the design class during my senior year, and so many students lost an opportunity to learn about the industry. I decided then that I would come back to my high school and give students the advantages that I had through the ACE Mentor Program and my instructors. I feel like I can

*"ACE affirmed my career choice in design and project leadership."*

introduce these students—especially young women—to design and construction. My female role models were my design teacher Sarah Hatinen and my ACE mentor Heather Schopplein. I hope to fill their shoes in the lives of other young women at Santana High School, and provide mentorship to students who feel a calling in design and construction." ♦



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## ACE ENR Outstanding Mentors 2020

**The Outstanding Mentor Program recognizes the contributions of ACE's lifeblood:** its mentors. Since it was established in 2011, the program has recognized more than 50 mentors from across the county. The program is sponsored by Engineering News-Record and its parent company BNP Media. Following are the 2020 winners.



**Daniel Blaise,**  
PMP, LEED AP,  
Washington, D.C.,  
Metro Area,  
Senior Project  
Manager, Smoot  
Construction

Since 2014, Daniel has been the **Washington, D.C., Metro Area** affiliate's "go-to" mentor to start a new team or help a struggling site. In 2019, he was tapped to lead a new team at a nontraditional public charter school that seeks to reengage high school students ages 16–24. Through the program, students earn a GED, train in various trades and acquire various certifications. Daniel successfully adapted the regular ACE program to suit student interests and needs. He credits ACE with helping to secure full-time employment for several students.



**Alex Busche,**  
EIT, Houston,  
Senior Project  
Engineer, DPR  
Construction

An alumnus of the **Central**

**Iowa** affiliate, Alex now mentors for the **Houston** affiliate and this year stepped up to lead its largest team. As a founding member of Houston's ACE Associates Board, he helped overhaul the affiliate's curriculum. After mastering **Procore's** Brick by Brick construction management game, Alex now trains other teams on how to use the game as part of their curriculums. To deepen students' interest in the industry, he has helped them obtain internships, particularly at his firm.



**Kate Dunfee,**  
AIA, RID, Fort  
Worth, Texas,  
Project Architect,  
Huckabee

Kate is largely responsible for reviving the Fort Worth program of the **Dallas/Fort Worth** affiliate. Near collapse in 2017 when Kate took it over, the 20-session program now attracts more than 30 students and awards \$30,000 in scholarships. The final design projects developed by her students have attracted the interest and involvement of the City Council and a local economic development group.



**Jeffrey Messinger,**  
PE, LEED AP  
BD+C, New York,  
Vice President,  
STV Group

During his 17 years as mentor and team leader for the **Greater New York** affiliate, Jeffrey has impacted 400–500 students. Two of his former students have joined his team as mentors, including one alumna who co-leads the team with him. His students and fellow mentors appreciate his broad knowledge of the design and construction industry and ability to explain complex concepts. Many students ask Jeffrey to write recommendations, and then stay in touch for advice and assistance with internships and jobs.



**Amanda Shade,**  
CEM, Los Angeles,  
Senior Project  
Manager, ACCO  
Engineered  
Systems

Amanda has mentored for 13 years, first with the **San Diego** affiliate and since 2010 with the **Los Angeles/Orange County** affiliate. In addition to inspiring students to pursue industry-related majors in college, she organizes field

trips promoting skilled trades careers. She also created two MEP activities for ACE students that are now used by several affiliate teams to teach related concepts. Amanda serves on the affiliate's board of directors and co-chaired its 2020 sold-out fundraiser, which generated more than \$200,000.



**Holly Snow,**  
LEED Green  
Associate,  
Portland, Ore.,  
Estimating  
Manager, JE Dunn  
Construction

A mentor for the **Portland, Ore.**, affiliate beginning in 2015, Holly became a team leader in 2017. At the request of several students, she organized and led the affiliate's first team to enter the CIRT National Design and Construction Competition in 2019. As a member of affiliate's board and scholarship committee, Holly advocates for underserved and minority students. At her firm, she recruits mentors for ACE, especially women, and she also supervises ACE student interns. ♦

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# Virtual CIRT National Design & Construction Competition Spotlights Next-Generation Talent

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual CIRT National Design & Construction Competition may have felt different this year, but the talent of young people from across the country was no less evident.

For 2020, 52 entries from 24 ACE affiliates competed for top honors. More than 400 students from 170 high schools and 238 mentors were involved. In an unprecedented virtual final round, the three finalist teams presented their projects to a national remote audience of more than 130 and five judges.

CIRT President Mark A. Casso says, “The dedication and quality of the competition teams are always inspirational, and this year is no exception. If this is the example of the type of students that we’re attracting to our industry, our industry is in good hands. These students are just outstanding.”

## CONGRATULATIONS to the 2020 CIRT Design & Construction Competition National Winners!

National Champion & 1st Place, \$5k Winner: **ACE Mentor Program of Greater New York (Team 30)** for their Water Resource Management & Preservation entry: “the belt;”

2nd Place, \$3k Winner: **ACE Mentor Program of Illinois (Chicago Team 5)** for their Gastronomic Center entry: “Food Bank;” and

3rd Place, \$2k Winner: **ACE Mentor Program of Greater Washington, DC Metro Area (Washington Liberty H.S. Team)** for their National Pavilion entry: “The National Star.”



### Construction Industry Round Table

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The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$5,000 Prize): ACE Mentor Program of **Greater New York** (Team 30) for Water Resource Management & Preservation entry: “The Belt”

*“The winning entry exhibited extraordinary versatility and responsiveness to the criteria of the water management challenge, including a tidal-flow energy-generation system.”*

—CIRT National Design & Construction Competition Judges Panel

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$3,000 Prize): ACE Mentor Program of **Illinois** (Chicago Team 5) for Gastronomic Center entry: “Food Bank”
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$2,000 Prize): ACE Mentor Program of **Greater Washington, D.C., Metro Area**

(Washington Liberty H.S. Team) for National Pavilion entry: “The National Star”

The following teams were also recognized for their solutions to focused design challenges:

National Pavilion Challenge

- 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up: ACE Mentor of **Illinois/Chicago** Team 9
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up: ACE Mentor Program of **Greater Phoenix** Area/Team P3

Water Resource Management & Preservation Challenge

- 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up: ACE Mentor of **Greater Philadelphia/Team 10**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up: ACE Mentor of **Washington/Seattle** Technology Team

Gastronomic Center Challenge

- 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up: ACE Mentor of **Illinois/Chicago** Team 1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up: ACE Mentor Program of **Illinois/Chicago** Team 6

The CIRT National Design & Construction Competition is a collaborative effort with ACE and the



The ACE Mentor Program of Greater New York (Team 30) won the top award for “The Belt,” a structure designed to resist sea level rise, maintain water quality and protect Manhattan from the effects of climate change.

Chicago Architecture Center. The panel of judges included Thomas F. Gilbane Jr. of **Gilbane Building Co.**, Tom Reilly of **Turner Construction Co.**, Lisa Chong of **Thornton-Tomasetti**, Scott Seltz of **Engineering News-Record** and Jenni Mushynski of Chicago Architecture Center. ♦

## Winning the CIRT Competition Runs In the Family

Erikson Calungsod, the presenter for Greater New York's Team 30 that took the top prize in this year's competition, hails from a family of competition winners.

His eldest sister Kristy, now an environmental engineer, joined ACE Mentor Program in 2011. Although she did not participate on a CIRT team, she inspired her three younger siblings to join ACE.

Denise and Raphael, numbers two and three in the family pecking order, were both members of Team 30, which was created in 2013 as a competition team. In 2014, Raphael joined ACE, which in the following year placed second runner-up in the transportation/road systems challenge category.

In 2016, when Erickson joined Team 30, Denise was the presenter for the first-place national winner. In 2017, Erickson picked up her mantle, presenting for Team 30's entry, which placed second overall. Older brother Raphael was a member of this team.

During the 2019-2020 program year, Denise helped mentor the first-place Team 30 while she interned at **AECOM**. She had just earned a construction management and civil engineering degree from New York College of Technology. Her brother Erikson heads to Brooklyn College this fall to study pre-med. ♦



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**ACE ALUMNI MENTOR SPOTLIGHT**

**Kenuel Lopez Rivera**  
**Cost Engineer**  
**Turner Construction Co.**

An interest in sciences and math doesn't always translate to a career in the design and construction industry. But with help from ACE mentors and a favorite teacher, Kenuel found his passion as a construction manager.

He joined the **Providence, R.I.**, affiliate during his senior year at Central Falls High School. Those mentors plus a tour of nearby Worcester Polytechnic University (WPI), where he learned about all of the varied engineering degrees and programs offered there, helped guide Kenuel to civil engineering and ultimately to a career focusing on construction management. He then went on to graduate with a civil engineering degree from WPI in 2017.

"It's not always easy for low-income minorities to see themselves in a professional environment," Kenuel explains. "But with ACE and the support of that teacher, I did."

Today, Kenuel is a civil engineer with **Turner Construction Co.** and lead mentor for the Boston Society of Architects team within the **Greater Boston** affiliate.

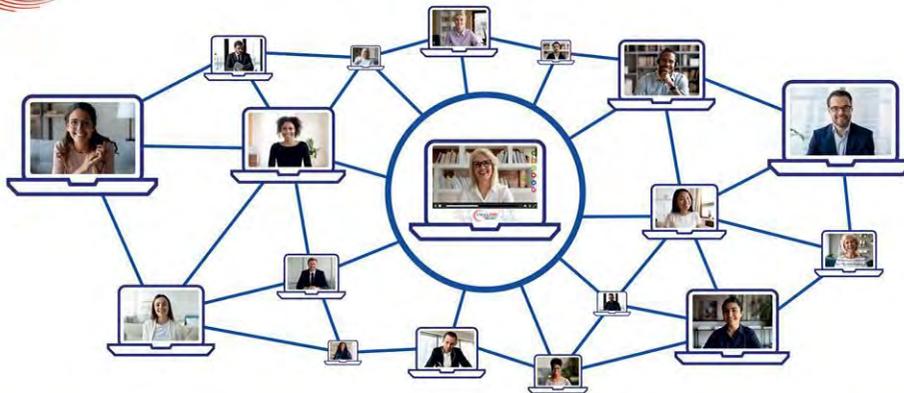
He has also opened windows of opportunity for his five siblings and a number of other minority high school students. In fact, thanks in part to shared conversations about ACE, Kenuel's 18-year-old brother is currently attending Tufts University in Massachusetts and studying civil engineering.

Kenuel says, "The best thing about ACE is its ability to introduce young people from all walks of life to the many disciplines that they may not have otherwise known existed. This year, two of his mentees picked construction management because we introduced them to the career opportunities. That's tremendously rewarding."

Even better, Kenuel says that earlier this year, he received an email from one of his first mentees who has been accepted into the engineering program at Northeastern University in Boston. ♦



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## ACE Awards Another \$400K in Scholarships in Memory Of CMiC Founder Allen Berg

In the second year of the CMiC Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship program, the ACE Mentor Program scholarship committee awarded scholarships to 23 students from 23 affiliates across 18 states. The total value of the postsecondary education scholarships, worth between \$5,000 and \$40,000, was \$400,000. The two top scholarship winners hailed from the **Cleveland** and **Portland, Ore.**, affiliates.

Selected first on the basis of merit and then on financial need, the scholarship winners include students who are entering accredited college programs in areas such as architecture, interior design and engineering, as well as, for the first time, skilled craft programs.

This scholarship program is distinctive in several ways. First, every applicant has demonstrated a sincere

interest and aptitude in the construction industry, as well as a need. Second, a mentor, team leader or affiliate leader with direct knowledge of the applicant writes the recommendation.

Ross Myers, chairman and CEO of **Allan Myers** and member of the Executive Committee of the National Board

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**Scholarship recipients were individually notified via Zoom.**

---

of the ACE Mentor Program, says, “Because ACE mentors have worked alongside the students, the students will realize long-term benefits. The scholarships reinforce student confidence and build self-esteem. If we—their mentors

and the scholarship committee—believe in them, they’ll believe in themselves.”

Scholarship recipients were individually notified via a Zoom announcement meeting, which included the ACE National staff, the student’s affiliate leader and mentor. Surprised recipients didn’t know in advance the reason for the Zoom call.

The scholarships are named in honor of Allen Berg, the late founder of the construction management software company CMiC.

“Allen was a lifelong learner devoted to educational and community causes,” says Judith Berg, chairwoman of the CMiC Board of Directors. “This scholarship in his memory will carry on his legacy as an advocate for equal opportunities to drive positive change in the world.” ♦



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## ACE ALUMNI MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

### Cody Whitelock Virtual Construction Manager Barnhill Contracting Co.

Cody already had an interest in the design and construction industry thanks largely to his father's experience working for a steel subcontractor.

"I thought construction would be interesting—but wasn't quite sure in what capacity," Cody says. "My high school guidance counselor put me in touch with the drafting and CTE teachers at my school in my freshman year."

The **ACE Maryland Eastern Shore** program was championed by the drafting instructors and hosted in their classroom after school. Recalls Cody, "The mentors in ACE helped me refine my career choice by spotlighting the different roles. I liked to work on the ACE projects and solve problems, so engineering seemed a perfect career path."

Cody attended Clemson University in South Carolina to study civil engineering with an emphasis in construc-

tion management. He graduated in 2015 and was hired by Barnhill Contracting Co., where a colleague at the company reconnected Cody with ACE.

"I wanted to reconnect with an organization that gave so much to me during my high school years," Cody says, "And I wanted to give that same experience back to a new generation of students, just as the program had inspired me to do."

He joined the **Raleigh/Durham** affiliate as a mentor, and soon after took on bigger roles as a lead mentor, associate board member, webmaster and, this past year, associate board president. In the past six years, Cody has been fortunate enough to see students go through ACE, then college, internships and start careers.

When asked to summarize the value of ACE, Cody says, "The greatest benefits of ACE are the practical education and networking that allow students to grow outside of their studies in high school, go to college, pursue internships and co-ops, and prepare for an ACE profession after school." ♦

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## An Interview With ACE Mentor Program President Diana Eidenshink

### What are some of ACE's most noteworthy accomplishments throughout this past year?

Overall, we had a very good year. We saw growth in the number of affiliates around the country, expanded into Canada, built more partnerships and increased our scholarship funds. While the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic certainly challenged our students, mentors and sponsors, the way that we adapted to the new situation validated our resilience. I was particularly impressed with the amazing ability of our volunteers to pivot from in-person meetings to an online virtual program within essentially two weeks. This speaks to both the strength and commitment of everyone involved in the ACE Mentor Program.

### How did ACE National help affiliates with this transition?

ACE National worked closely with our affiliates to assist them in any way they needed. We also accelerated the introduction of a new program called ACE@Home and added a new section on our ACE Mentor Tools website called Student Resources Online. Both sites contain lessons and activities that students can do on their own, including learning how to write scholarship essays and resumes, sketch by hand or take virtual jobsite tours. We'll continue to add to the website throughout the year.

### How has the COVID-19 shutdown affected the program's future?

It's certainly shifted some priorities. Our five-year plan was always to have a greater virtual presence because our

students have asked for more resources and activities to undertake on their own. As well, there are teachers and champions in parts of the country who want to participate in ACE but can't support an affiliate. An expanded virtual presence will allow us to set up virtual mentoring in these areas. The shutdown also brought to light the issue of technology inequality. Some of our students don't have computers or Internet access. We're working with industry partners to get discounts from service providers and establish hotspots.

### How will ACE look in the fall?

The program will likely be virtual for most of our affiliates. We hope to bring back in-person interactions next spring to facilitate design projects—a cornerstone of our program. ♦



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Thank you to all of the 2019 ACE National Sponsors. We are so grateful for your support! Thanks also to those 2019 sponsors that renewed for 2020, indicated here with an asterisk (\*). New sponsors joining ACE in 2020 are indicated in a separate list at the bottom.

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# ACE National Affiliates 2020

ACE's 77 affiliates are spread across 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. For more information about each affiliate, visit [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org).

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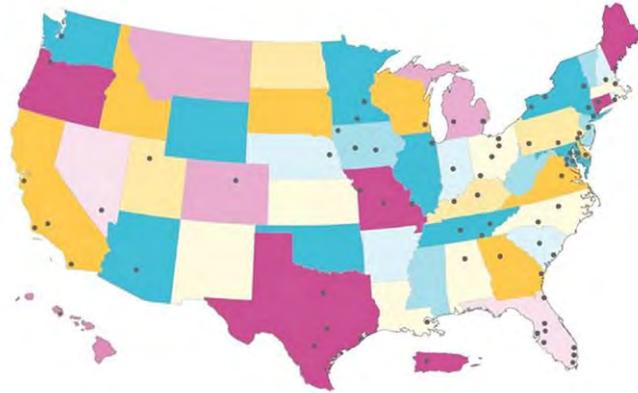
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