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*ENR's Annual*

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# ACE Mentor Yearbook

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# 2015

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# How do you inspire the next generation to grow our industry?

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Design with community in mind





## A Letter from the ACE Mentor Chairman

**Another 8,000 high school students** were introduced to design and construction professions this past school year—and, of that number, a large majority are heading to college to study architecture, engineering or construction management or entering trade schools.

Thanks to ACE, these young people, many from underserved communities, have gained an inside perspective about our industry as well as a helping hand in achieving their professional goals. They are our future!

It's these young people who will help fill the workforce shortage that threatens our ability to meet growing construction demands. ACE has also become a pipeline for diversity. African-American ACE students are entering college in engineering at more than twice the national average. Women ACE graduates (38%) declare majors in architecture and civil/electrical/mechanical engineering at double the national rate of 19%.

For mentors, ACE's value is personal and professional. Most tell me that they gain the greatest satisfaction from seeing the sparkle of awareness in young people's eyes when they discover a career possibility that excites them, and even more rewarding when they watch their students graduate from college and enter the workforce. ACE sponsor firms believe their employee mentors sharpen leadership and organizational skills and establish worthwhile connections with industry partners.

High school administrators and teachers love the program because ACE kids become more active learners. University professors say ACE graduates see the value of education and enter college with more focus and motivation.

It's no surprise that our success feeds more success. Our **Puerto Rico Affiliate** almost doubled in student participation (now at 100) in one year. The new **Sarasota, Florida Affiliate** started with

70 students in October 2014 and finished with 68 students. In fact, across the country, ACE attrition is low. The **Greater New York City Affiliate** had more than 1,000 students participating this past year, and 77% finished the program. Their goal is to engage 1,500 students by 2018.

We're on the brink of even greater growth under the experienced eye of our president and CEO, Jack Kalavritinos. Jack brings over 20 years of legal, management and executive experience to our organization. With his connections to trade associations, corporate entities and government agencies, he'll grow the visibility and value of the program in terrific ways. I'd also like to thank Ed Worthy, our education director. His work to gather and share lessons learned and best practices across all affiliates is invaluable as are his student and mentor surveys. Thanks to Ed, we have the tools to show new sponsors the documented value of ACE to the industry, the community and our education partners. I would also like to recognize the hard work that the entire national team and the affiliate staff and volunteer leaders have put into making ACE Mentor a success in 2015.

Finally, no ACE Yearbook is complete without mention of Charlie Thornton, the founder of ACE. We owe an enormous debt to him for creating and generating excitement around this wonderful program. This year, Charlie transitioned to Honorary Chair of ACE, where he'll continue his role as ACE's number one ambassador.

Thanks to all of you who helped make ACE a success in 2014-2015. Enjoy the yearbook, and if you're not currently involved with ACE, we hope the following stories inspire you to join us as we build the future of our industry.



**Thomas F. Gilbane, Jr.**  
*Chairman & CEO, Gilbane, Inc.*  
*ACE Chairman*





Kansas City students engage in a design charrette.

## Educators Cite ACE's Value to Students and Schools

**Every ACE sponsor, mentor and proponent** of the program believes that the success of ACE depends on teachers, superintendents and principals—while secondary school educators underscore the value of ACE to students.

When asked what benefit ACE brings to his school, Principal Jay Sumpter of John Jay High School Science and Engineering Academy (John Jay) in San Antonio, Texas, says, “ACE is so much more than an after-school program; it’s a jewel in our crown, another opportunity for kids to see and do real-world activities that will help them discern their career path.”

Charlie Van Zant, Jr., superintendent of the Clay County School District in Northeastern Florida, agrees, saying: “Our job is to teach students to think courageously and collaboratively...our motto is innovate, engage and empower. ACE does that the best. It’s a robust experience that teaches our kids to think, interact and collaborate, dress appropriately and be on time. All of those skills are translatable to every job.”

In Ohio, Eric Gordon, superintendent of Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) and vice chairman of the ACE **Cleveland Affiliate’s** Board

of Directors, adds, “Our goal is to engage kids in real-life practical application-, research- and evidence-based activities. With programs like ACE, we can provide broader and deeper experiences to our students, uncommon in today’s typical urban education environment.”

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***“As educators, our job is to teach students to think courageously and collaboratively. ACE does that best.”***

**– Charlie Van Zant, Jr.,  
Superintendent, Clay County  
School District, Fla.**

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To the points made by educators above, more than three-quarters (82%) of 2013 and 2014 alumni report they used the work-life skills they learned in ACE (team work, leadership, communication, etc.) “a lot” or “some” while in college. Further, virtually all high school seniors (92%) who completed the program in 2015 agree that their ACE experience gave them skills and knowledge not taught in their high school.

### ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT

#### ISAURA PEREZ Dallas, Texas

As a high school student, Isaura wanted to be an architect. With support from her high school teacher, she joined ACE in 2005 primarily as an opportunity to visit architecture firms and also to potentially get a scholarship. She recalls, “I wanted to see what architects do on a daily basis. These visits motivated me to become an architect because they helped me decide that the architectural profession was for me.”

Isaura subsequently earned a degree in Environmental Design from Texas A&M University in 2010 and currently works for Poole+Drennan, a design studio in Dallas, Texas. She’s also returned to ACE as a mentor and mentor coordinator with the **Dallas/Fort Worth Affiliate**.

“I believe mentoring is an invaluable feature of the program,” she says. “As a student, I was able to ask questions about architecture directly to professionals in the field. They provided me with much insight and motivated me to continue on the architectural path. I know from personal experience, that sometimes, all a student needs is a little push. As an ACE mentor, I can help them reach their fullest potential. Paying it forward has never felt so good.”



# A Passion Worth Sharing

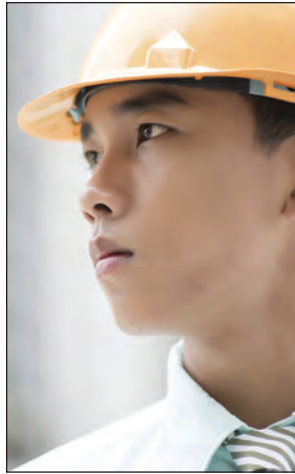
## Supporting ACE since the beginning

EMCOR has believed in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program for years. Not only does it help motivated high school students get a solid start in the building industry, it lets us share our passion in ways that really make a difference. Like the fact that ACE kids graduate, enroll in college, and pursue architecture and engineering careers at a greater rate than non-ACE kids.

**We all share in the benefits of ACE.**

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ACE teams operate in Cleveland schools.

## Integrating ACE

The principal and teachers at John Jay feel so strongly about the value of ACE that the program is now one of five options that juniors and seniors can elect to complete their mandatory academic research requirements.

Sumpter says, “We realize that most teenagers don’t know what they’re passionate about, and it’s up to our educators to give them exposure to science and engineering opportunities.”

Luis Rivera, the John Jay engineering design instructor and advisor to ACE, is one of the program’s greatest proponents. He was a practicing engineer for 10 years prior to moving into teaching. He says, “The measure of our success is not every student going into a STEM program, but for every one of our students to study something that interests them. With ACE, kids learn so much; they have an opportunity to network, establish a pipeline of professional contacts for internships and job opportunities when they finish college.”

Sumpter reports that the school usually has twice the number of applicants for ACE as it can support with the number of mentors, adding, “If we had more mentors, we’d have more teams because the interest is there.”

The national College Board testing organization selected the John Jay Academy as the winner of its 2015 College Board Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts, in the Civic Engagement/Professional Partnerships category, in large part because of its implementation of the ACE Mentor Program. The judges were particularly impressed with the school’s “depth

of collaboration between students and their partners in the fields of architecture, construction, and engineering. Students in this program are truly immersed in real-world learning experiences, wrestling with authentic design problems within their own community.”

The award included a grant of \$5,000 toward the growth and continuation of the school’s ACE program.

John Jay is part of the **Greater San Antonio Affiliate**, which currently includes students from four area high schools. The program was brought to the area by Laura Elvia Hernández, a John Jay graduate currently working for Ford Powell & Carson and chair of the affiliate’s board.

## Transformative Experiences

Clay County’s Orange Park High School and Middleburg High School are part of the ACE’s **Northeast Florida Affiliate**, which was founded in 2006 with significant support from Associated Builders and Contractors. Over 40% of the students at Orange Park are minority and/or economically disadvantaged, and over one-third (37%) of students at Middleburg are economically disadvantaged.

Clay County’s involvement in ACE is largely due to the support of Superintendent Van Zant. In 2008, Kimberly Hansen, vice president with Integrated Construction, LLC and past chair of the Northeast Florida Affiliate, asked him about bringing the ACE program to Clay County.

Van Zant says, “The ACE mentoring program is a perfect example of what 21st-century learning looks like.” He particularly enjoys attending ACE sessions during the year to observe what the participants are learning and the designs they’re creating and to see if they or mentors need anything. In one case, he asked students what they needed; they responded: a computer to run REVIT. Van Zant committed to providing the equipment.

Further, Van Zant believes ACE is an important element in his vision of

developing team- and project-based learning experiences that encourage students to take ownership of their academic progress and transform the secondary school learning experience.

Of note, one of Clay County’s lead mentors is Joseph A. De Marco, manager of Operations at F&T Apparel, LLC. De Marco was named a 2015 ENR-ACE Outstanding Mentor, in part for his work to develop the affiliate’s first team focused on developing a project for the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition. His team was one of three 2015 finalists.

## Building ACE Bridges

CMSD’s Superintendent Eric Gordon believes ACE naturally complements his district’s goal to provide high school students with authentic life-learning opportunities.

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*“With programs like ACE, we can provide broader and deeper experiences to our students, uncommon in today’s typical urban education environment.”*

– Eric Gordon,  
Superintendent, Cleveland  
Metropolitan School District

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Since its start in 2008, the ACE **Cleveland Affiliate** has partnered with CMSD to mentor in seven high schools (soon to be eight). Gordon says, “We hope to continue to expand the ACE Mentor Program until we have full capacity in our community. We have a very deliberate growth plan to add a program a year.” That’s a tall order considering CMSD has 31 high schools.

A key part of ACE’s success, he says, is to continue to build relationships with higher education institutions. “Through the Higher Education Compact of Cleveland, CMSD has relationships with the 16 universities that serve 80% of CMSD graduates,” says Gordon. “We recruit mentors to stay connected with our students while in college and through their careers. Kids who are attracted to ACE disciplines are doing all the right things in their education and development of professional connections. Keeping these kids on our radar is very important as so many of our kids face considerable personal and financial challenges.” ■

Making a Difference



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ACE inspires students to pursue careers in our industry and provides a platform for our people to make a difference in the community.

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Nothing gives us more pride than designing and building a beautiful landscape and maintaining its growth. We have the same passion for our people, especially when it comes to developing the next generation of landscape professionals. ValleyCrest is proud to support the ACE Mentor Program, and the brilliant minds it fosters.



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# Beyond the Bottom Line

## ACE Sponsors Gain Valuable Intangible Benefits

**For the CEOs and top executives** of ACE's over 700 sponsor firms, the investment of financial and staff resources in the program provides a return that goes well beyond goodwill. It's a quadruple win, they say, for students, the communities their companies serve, their employees and an industry that faces considerable workforce shortages in the foreseeable future.

In a recent article, Gilbane executives stated that the current and future success of their company depends on more architects and engineers to design buildings and enough construction managers and skilled crafts workers to build them. Thomas Gilbane, Jr., chairman & CEO of Gilbane, Inc., confirms, "To insure an adequate supply of professionals, workforce recruitment should begin by stimulating high school students to pursue careers in the industry through ACE."

Tom Donnelly, president of ValleyCrest Landscape Development and longtime ACE sponsor, agrees, adding, "You simply can't put a price on the relationships our people have built with other companies and the communities through ACE."

One of the primary reasons for design firms and construction companies to participate in ACE is workforce development.

### Workforce Wins

Since inception in 1994, ACE has introduced thousands of kids to the industry and, studies show, that over 70% of ACE students go on to study design and construction. Today, many of those young people are now professionals to the joy of ACE sponsors.

Marcos Diaz Gonzalez, member of ACE **Greater New York** Board of Directors, ACE mentor and senior vice president with AECOM, recently stated, "These young people have a unique perspective on college, the profession and the industry—and are fast becoming



ACE Board chair Tom Gilbane (right), chairman & CEO of Gilbane, Inc., and ACE Executive Committee member Rich Allen, executive vice president and COO of Stantec, participated in the Boston Affiliate's spring fundraising event which featured a talk by Boston Mayor Marty Davis (center).

leaders in our industry."

Donnelly adds, "We're not just getting more people in the industry—we're growing in diversity. At events where students bring parents, for example, there's diversity in the audience. Diversity is vital to our industry's success and our ability to respond to the challenges ahead."

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***"Our industry can be risky and is not for the faint of heart. A trained, passionate workforce is critical to our individual organizations and our entire industry."***

**– Pat Rodgers, President and CEO, Rodgers Builders**

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"It's important that our business—which is all about building communities—mirrors the diversity of those communities so that we can deliver the right solutions that fit those needs," adds Peter J. Davoren, ACE vice-chairman and chairman and president of Turner Construction Co.

ACE is certainly helping in that regard. In a recent survey, the majority of ACE 2015 seniors are minority (63%), whereas the majority of national high

school seniors are white (55.7%). As well, ACE high school seniors choosing to study engineering after graduation are 2 to 3 times more diverse than their national counterparts—African American (16.8%), Hispanic (25%) or women (32%).

It's not enough for Davoren who adds, "I'd like to think that through programs like ACE, our industry will be made up of 40-50% women and minorities down the road."

Tony Guzzi, president and CEO of EMCOR Group, Inc., and vice-chair of ACE's national Board of Directors, says, "If you're in this industry and interested in workforce development, ACE is a logical way to put your company's

community support dollars and time to work where there will be a fairly large impact."

### Professional Edge

While ACE sponsors do not measure ROI for their involvement in ACE, they are aware of the intangible benefits accruing to their companies, particularly in the area of professional development.

Construction is a team sport, and ACE provides a neutral ground for building relationships, leadership training and networking. In a recent survey, more than 80% of ACE mentors said they have extended their professional network through ACE.

Sponsors agree. Gilbane considers ACE an excellent training experience for its emerging professionals. The company's management candidates are encouraged to become ACE mentors, because executive staff believes this experience will sharpen leadership, communication and teamwork skills and also expand their networks through contact with mentors from other firms.

For young professionals in particular, volunteering for ACE is looked upon favorably for performance reviews and promotions. Tom Gilbane conducts an informal annual review of all business



Trades Day Los Angeles 2014.

units' participation in ACE and grants Gilbane's annual ACE Mentoring Award each summer to one or more employees during a companywide town hall meeting. Winners receive \$1,000 to give to their local ACE chapter.

Stantec has been involved with ACE for a number of years. Rich Allen, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Stantec, says he's found that "ACE improves morale and overall professional engagement." He adds, "Since volunteering is a big part of our company, a side effect of the program has been the opportunity for entry and mid-level professional mentors to directly engage with senior level staff, which in a 17,000-person company would ordinarily be difficult. I think young professionals become more invested in the company with that engagement."

As a specialty contractor, ValleyCrest is highly aware of the importance of relationships. Donnelly says, "In our business, people work with people they trust, which builds a stronger bond and ultimately delivers a better product to our customers."

Beyond the week-to-week mentoring, Donnelly says his people especially enjoy special programs such as Trades Day held annually in Los Angeles, where students get hands-on exposure to the skilled crafts. He adds, "Participating companies set up interactive workshop areas in a parking lot where ACE students learn how to lay bricks, pour concrete or, in our case, put together an irrigation sprinkler system and learn a little about hydraulics. The whole notion of learn by doing is where the value of ACE really shines."

## Community Engagement

Community activism is a large part of many of today's leading firms—and ACE provides a wonderful connection.

Stantec's Allen says, "We are deeply involved in communities around America. ACE allows us to connect with high schools and the community, advancing our own core value of community engagement."

Similarly, EMCOR Group's Guzzi says, "We look at all things through a company and community lens, which we believe speaks to the ethos and character of our organization. ACE is something our people are interested in. It allows our people to make a difference in the community."

Donnelly adds, "Investing in our future really motivates me personally and professionally. We owe our communities for the success we've enjoyed. We all earned it over time and had people that helped us with those achievements."

He's not alone. In a recent survey of ACE mentors, a large majority (over 70%) said they get great pleasure in sharing their passion for their industry and career.

Donnelly says, "While it sounds cliché to invest in the community, it's very real. ACE is not about asking for money; it's about participation, volunteerism and becoming part of your community. Why not support a program that supports our industry and our community? It's really a very simple decision."

When asked what she'd tell a firm considering ACE sponsorship, Pat Rodgers, president and CEO of Rodgers Builders, concludes, "ACE is a highly effective way for all of us in the industry to develop relationships with high school students who are interested in our industry. Your business and the entire industry will benefit from your investment in the ACE program and taking part in the education of future professionals. Through it, we are able to attract a diverse group of talent." ■

## ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT

### NICOLE DENNIS Chicago, Ill.

As a senior in a South Side Chicago high school in 2005, a curious Nicole took a drafting class and even got involved with a balsa wood bridge building project, thinking structural engineering might be her calling. Her drafting teacher convinced her to sign up for ACE, and on a whim she did, thinking it would be fun to visit downtown offices and jobsites.

She recalls, "The best part about ACE was the interaction with mentors. They made a construction career seem attainable. I'd never had any exposure to it before and had no idea that there were so many fields of engineering. It was nice to talk to the mentors and even go on a field trip as part of ACE to a local college and get advice about college applications."

Soon after, Nicole enrolled in the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) where she earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and later returned to get a master's degree in construction engineering and management.

Today, Nicole works for Turner Construction Company and is an active and energetic mentor and **Chicago Affiliate** board member.

She says, "I would not be in this industry if not for this program. It opened up a world I didn't know existed. ACE gave me the opportunity to network and get internships. ACE is a life-changing and career-building experience."







## SHARING YOUR VISION. **BUILDING SUCCESS.**

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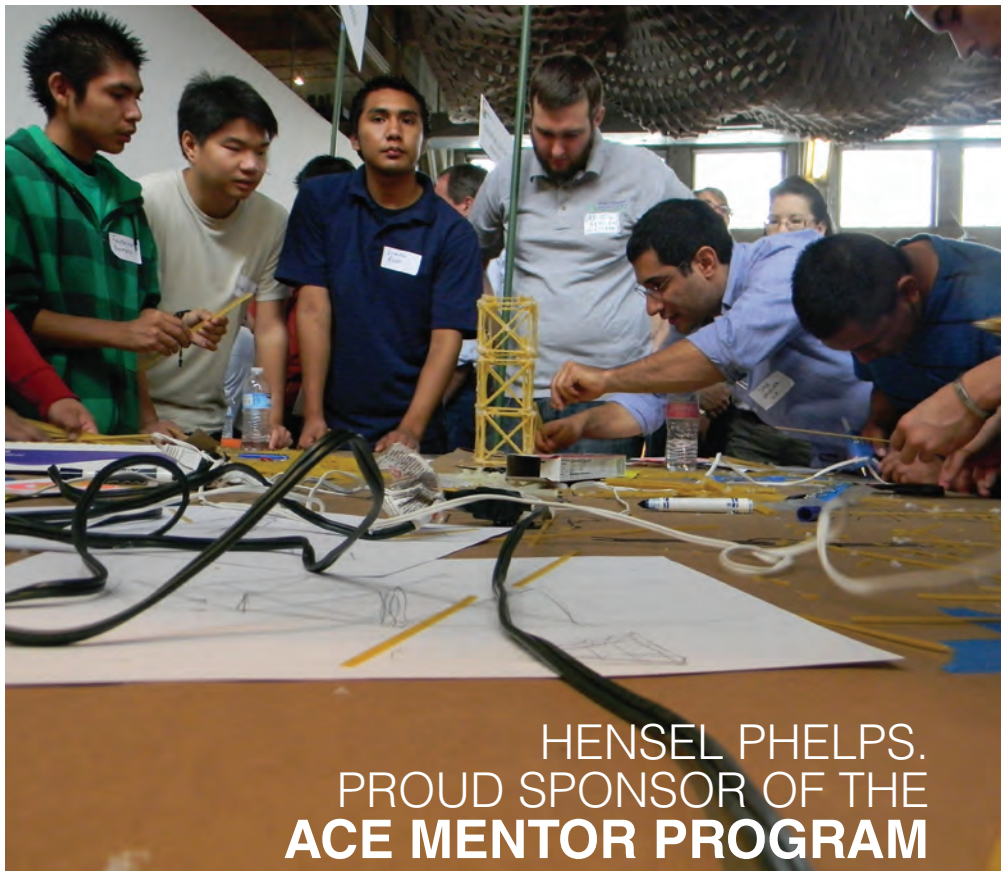
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# ACE Forges Mutually Beneficial Connections with Colleges

**ACE launches high school students** into college and craft training programs, as it aims to grow the industry workforce with excited, talented and diverse people. Undergirding the bridge between ACE and colleges is a network of mutually beneficial connections that affiliates have forged with colleges and their faculty and administrators.

Through these connections, a very high proportion of ACE graduates go to college, according to the program's recent national survey of current and former students. Of the ACE seniors who graduated in 2015, 92% enrolled in

study engineering, stay with engineering after their sophomore year, whereas 59% of national engineering majors remain in the field from their freshman year through graduation (from 2003-2009).

About 72% of high school seniors who participated in ACE in 2015 agree their ACE experience increased their motivation to go to college (in any field), while 69% of 2013 and 2014 ACE alumni in college agree their ACE experience gave them an edge over their peers in college. More than three-quarters (82%) of 2013 and 2014 alumni report they used the work-life skills they

## A Networking Edge

Colleges and craft training schools build ACE connections in a number of ways.

A. Peter Hilger, faculty director and internship adviser for the Construction and Facility Management Program at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minn., believes by hosting design competitions, "students get a chance to feel the college environment, and we get a chance to excite them about the possibilities." He adds, "The process also gives high school advisors the chance to network with college faculty and administrators. Exposure is important."

Many affiliates organize special college-related events such as college nights or small "fairs" where college

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*"ACE helps young people realize their options, crystalize their thinking about career directions they might like, and, for those of us teaching in the university environment, we get students who want to be there and are excited to learn more."*

– Peter Hilger, AIA, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minn.

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college immediately after graduation (as compared to the national rate of 66%), and 70% of them plan to major in design disciplines, construction or engineering.

Highly satisfying to ACE mentors and sponsors in the engineering fields is that 76% of ACE alum who enter college to

learned in ACE (team work, leadership, communication skills, etc.) "a lot" or "some" while in college.

The survey numbers reflect the results of affiliates building productive connections with colleges, universities and trade schools.

## ACE Graduates Establish First ACE College Chapter

In 2014, Philadelphia University (PhilaU) established the nation's first collegiate chapter for graduates of the ACE Mentor Program.

Founded by 19 ACE graduates who study architecture, engineering, construction management and related majors at the university, the program was established to help recruit students from high schools to attend the university's architecture and engineering programs and to mentor ACE graduates in their first year as university students.

"PhilaU's new ACE chapter is an important networking and mentoring resource for students in architecture, construction and engineering fields," said Jesse Smith, fifth-year architecture student and president of the PhilaU ACE chapter.

"Engaging in the new ACE Mentor Collegiate Chapter at PhilaU offers former ACE students the opportunity to give back and become mentors themselves," says Barbara Klinkhammer, executive dean of PhilaU's College of Architecture and the Built Environment.

Several other institutions are exploring the development of similar chapters, including Manhattan College and Wentworth Institute of Technology.



ACE students across the country have a chance to visit university campuses and network with faculty and administrators.

administrators or faculty speak to students, answer questions and distribute literature. These events can even include a session about the college application process and admissions process.

The **Greater New York City Affiliate** partnered with the Center for Architecture last November for a large-scale college night event in which 20 schools of architecture from Boston to New York participated and over 100 ACE students, among others, attended.

Other affiliates host ACE programs on college campuses. For example, two teams with the **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate** meet on the University of Pennsylvania campus. One **Boston** team holds sessions at Wentworth Institute of Technology. One **Atlanta** team meets at Georgia Institute of Technology. In New York, teams meet at Manhattan College and NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering. The **Charlotte Affiliate** has developed a partnership with the Construction Technologies Division of Central Piedmont Community College whereby

one team has access to some of the facilities at the school.

An ACE-organized summer camp in California and other overnight camps

hosted by University of Florida and Middle Tennessee State University have students live on campus to get a taste of college life.

## Growing Numbers of Colleges Provide ACE-Focused Financial Support

The following universities earmark scholarships for ACE Mentor Program students:

- Manhattan College—full-tuition scholarship for student from the Greater New York City affiliate
- Wentworth Institute of Technology – full tuition scholarship; available to students from all affiliates
- New School of Architecture & Design—scholarship for a student studying architecture from the San Diego Affiliate.
- Pennsylvania Institute of Technology—scholarship to student studying construction-related major; all affiliates
- University of Tennessee—scholarship for student entering Construction Science program; all affiliates
- Middle Tennessee State University—scholarship for Tennessee ACE students entering the construction management program.
- University of Florida Rinker School of Construction Management—scholarship for student studying construction management; all affiliates
- New Jersey Institute of Technology—matches New Jersey Affiliate's scholarship
- Cleveland State University—matches Cleveland Affiliate's scholarship
- Kent State University—matches Cleveland Affiliate's scholarship



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Some affiliates arrange college tours for their students. In March, the **Central Iowa Affiliate** in collaboration with Iowa State University organized a tour for 60 ACE students and their parents through facilities and labs at the College of Design and the Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering. An ACE alum, who is now studying engineering at the university, was one of the tour leaders.

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**About 92% of ACE seniors enrolled in college immediately after graduation; 70% of those study design, engineering or construction related fields.**

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Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) along with Rodger Williams University and the New England Institute of Technology work together to give ACE students with the **Rhode Island Affiliate** a look at college life and the opportunities that go along with a college education.

James Barnes, AIA, professor of architecture at RISD, previous ENR-ACE Outstanding Mentor and board member with the Rhode Island Affiliate, adds, "All of our students have a chance to tour one or more of our three campuses, and their tour guides are often former ACE alum. Since many of these kids are from inner city neighborhoods, our mantra is to keep them in school, give them a chance to see opportunities, recommend internships or apprenticeships and provide support."



Students from the San Francisco Bay Area Affiliate construct a skyscraper from marshmallows and spaghetti.

# Celebrating 25 Years

DPR Construction was founded in 1990 from the desire to be something different: An organization that exists to build great things—great teams, great projects, great relationships.

As one of the nation's top technical builders, DPR is a proud supporter of the ACE Mentor Program. We look "ever forward" to working together to build a better future for generations to come.



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

Bentley Systems is driven by its desire to help inspire young people to study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in order to explore and pursue architectural, construction and engineering related career paths.



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## The Importance of Liaisons

The link between affiliates and colleges/universities is best facilitated by faculty members and administrators associated with affiliates. In many affiliates university representatives serve on their boards and also mentor.

University of Minnesota's Hilger has been a mentor and member of **Twin Cities ACE Affiliate's** board for the past two years. He is currently the affiliate's academic liaison, helping mentors develop engaging and interactive methodologies and programs for students. Hilger confirms, "It's a big advantage to any ACE program to have an academic liaison to help mentors develop engaging and interactive methodologies and programs for students."

RISD's Barnes was the catalyst that helped reshape the **Rhode Island Affiliate's** curriculum because he believes a "more engaged, sustainable curriculum is really a perfect strategy to give kids an opportunity to converse

with mentors, learn teamwork, build relationships and consider one of the industry disciplines."

One example of the benefits of a university/ACE Mentor liaison is clearly demonstrated in the **Greater Washington DC Affiliate**. Catholic University of America's Dr. Gunnar Lucko developed Build It!, a clever board game that gives students a practical

understanding of the inflow and outflow of cash during a construction project in a fun way. Developed as part of a research grant from the National Science Foundation, the game is an integral part of the Greater Washington DC Affiliate's activities and is available to other affiliates.

Dr. Lucko says, "It's not easy to teach construction project management to

## ACE Student College Contingents

Large contingents of ACE students will enroll as freshmen this year in the following colleges and universities, among others.

- California Polytechnic at Pomona, 10
- California Polytechnic at San Louis Obispo, 15
- Carnegie Mellon, 10
- City College of New York, 12
- Iowa State University, 16
- Manhattan College, 14
- New York City College of Technology, 9
- Oregon State University, 14
- Pennsylvania State University, 20
- San Diego State University, 12
- University of Texas, 15
- Virginia Polytechnic University, 9



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Best wishes to ACE students across the country for their continued success.





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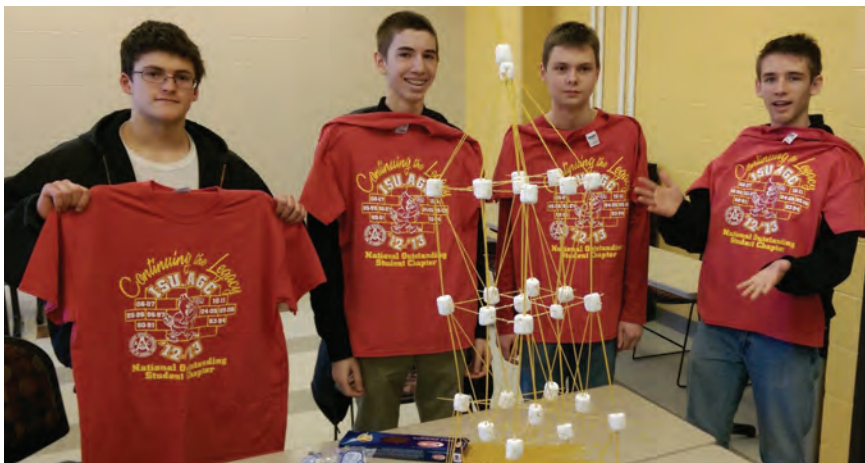
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ACE Central Iowa Students Tour Iowa State University's Engineering Lab.

high school students. We needed a way to get the concepts across to students that is fun and realistic." He is now working on a project management game that incorporates project schedules including days of float, associated costs and delay risks that he says will simulate a typical project where all "players" must collaborate to get the job done despite trickle down delays.

Hilger summarizes the benefits of ACE to universities, saying, "ACE helps young people realize their options, crystalize their thinking about career directions they might like, and for those of us teaching in the university environment, we get students who want to be there and are excited to learn more." ■



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# Actionable Influence: ACE Affiliates Spark Positive Change in Communities

ACE's vitality and impact on the community and the industry are reflected in the following vignettes of affiliates' noteworthy activities in 2015.

- The **Portland Oregon Affiliate** conducted a successful campaign to diversify the composition of its students. More than half (57%) of the 148 students (a record number) accepted into the program were minority, compared to 44% in the preceding year. The proportions of female students and students attending high schools with a high poverty rate also grew.
- Speaking at the **Central Iowa Affiliate's** final presentation night, Iowa's Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds told a crowd of 250 people how ACE fits into the state's overall STEM initiative.
- A student team from the **Nashville Affiliate** designed a new Tennessee Aquatic Conservation Center for the Nashville Zoo's proposed Native Tennessee Wildlife Exhibit. Zoo officials were so impressed with the concept that they plan to incorporate the ideas into the zoo's master plan.
- The **Chicago Affiliate** developed a new program model inspired by its successful summer program. A design-build team of 15 students met weekly for the school year to design a music and theatrical performance center for an actual client that is developing the high-profile Focal Point Community Campus. Serving the city's west and southwest sides, this unusual project integrates retail, education, arts, recreation and wellness services and involves the relocation of a hospital to the site. The client plans to incorporate elements of the students' design into the project.



Colorado Governor John Hickenlopper (center), a geologist by training, is a good friend of the ACE Colorado affiliate. Anne O'Neill (left) is the affiliate's program director and Mark Tabor (right) is a board member.



Iowa Lt. Gov. with Central Iowa Affiliate students.



Philadelphia Eagle football star Connor Barwin (seated) joined Philly students in summer program he helped support.

- The **Greater New York City Affiliate** celebrated its 20th anniversary in dramatic style, setting records for numbers of students participating in the program (1,030), teams (44), schools involved (248) and mentors (374).

- In the **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate's** first summer program, 12 students participated in an eight-week program linked to a community revitalization project around the Ralph Brooks Park in south Philadelphia. Two community partners—Urban Roots and Make the World Better Project created by Philadelphia Eagles football star Connor Barwin—collaborated with ACE on this project. Barwin received the affiliate's Community Leader of the Year award.

- The **Charlotte, North Carolina Affiliate** added a design twist to its annual Spotlight on Hunger event. Teams of students from eight schools collected canned goods (a record 1,260 lbs) and then designed structures displayed as shadow art. This year, the team with the winning design earned the chance to work with a well-known sculptor on a steel sculpture that will combine art and engineering. The sculpture will be installed on the winning team's school campus.

- Mentors, students and their family members from **Northeast Florida Affiliate** participated in one phase of a Habitat for Humanity home renovation project. In fall 2015 two skilled crafts ACE teams linked to the **Palm Beach/Martin County Florida Affiliate** will each build a modular Habitat house during the school year.

- Begun in 2008, the **Los Angeles Affiliate's** Trades Day has grown from one annual event to four because of its popularity. In 2015, 325 students received hands-on instruction in skilled construction craft trades during the all-day sessions. ■



At the **Houston Affiliate's Build It Forward** fundraiser, more than 120 mentors and students built storage benches that were donated to 19 charities.

## Industry, Community Commitment Leads to Banner Year in Scholarship Fundraising

### During 2015, ACE affiliates achieved notable successes

raising funds, sometimes in record amounts, for college and apprentice school scholarships and other student activities.

- Two affiliates set high fundraising records. Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the **Chicago Affiliate's** annual luncheon brought in \$235,000. The **Los Angeles Affiliate** netted \$141,000 from a cocktail reception and raised another \$80,000 at a golf tournament.
- Multiple affiliates benefit from other organizations' fundraising events. Two 2015 standouts include the **Houston Affiliate**, which received \$35,000 from a golf tournament organized by the local chapters of Associated General Contractors of America and American Institute of Architects (AIA). As well, the Cleveland AIA's popular sand castle competition on the shores of Lake Erie named the **Cleveland Affiliate** as its fundraiser's beneficiary. Eleven affiliates divided \$48,000 from the proceeds of a golf tournament fundraiser organized by the Hospital Corporation of America.
- At the **Boston Affiliate's** spring fundraiser, Boston Mayor Marty Davis was the featured speaker. The event generated \$75,000, a 50% jump over last year.
- Two affiliates organized fundraisers for the first time in 2015. A world-class wheelchair athlete spoke at a **New Orleans Affiliate** breakfast, which raised \$12,000. The **Western Pennsylvania Affiliate's** black-tie ACE Gala netted \$25,000.
- In its third year, the **Houston Affiliate's** unique fundraiser called Build It Forward reached new heights of success. A total of 125 mentors and students built storage benches, which the affiliate donated to 19 non-profit community organizations. Because sponsors contributed to the affiliate's scholarship fund and also provided supplies to construct the benches, nearly all of the \$60,000 raised—a four-fold increase over the first year—was net.
- Three affiliates each awarded scholarships totaling six-figures. The **Greater New York City Affiliate** awarded \$207,000, plus \$104,000 in special scholarships from Manhattan College and the Contractors' Association of Greater New York. **San Diego** awarded \$201,000 in scholarships. **Chicago** dispersed \$162,000 in scholarships and 15 paid summer internships for high school students valued at \$48,000. A fourth affiliate—**Cleveland**—almost reached the six-figure plateau with \$99,000 in scholarship awards. ■

### ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT

#### THIMOTY (TIM) E. LIBRE Miami, Fla.

At his high school teacher's recommendation, Tim joined ACE in his senior year (2012) to work with industry mentors and gain insight into the profession beyond what he could learn in books.



Tim was a part of the ACE program at Miami Coral Park Senior High School. He was the project leader/project executive for his team that won 1st place honors in the 2012 ACE-CIRT National Design Competition, where, aside from winning, he had the opportunity to meet Peter Davoren, president and CEO of Turner Construction Co. Tim says, "He just struck me as an incredible man. I knew from talking with him that the construction industry was meant for me."

Tim is currently set to begin his third year at Florida International University where he is studying construction management as a full-time student and concurrently working for Turner Construction as a full-time intern while finishing his degree.

He also joined the **Miami-Dade County Affiliate** as a mentor at his alma mater, helping the students from Miami Coral Park Senior High School with their CIRT projects, which includes last year's 3rd Place 2014 National Finalist team. Tim mentors multiple times each year and is excited to continue this role in the future.

When asked about his profession and ACE experience, Tim summarizes, "It's all amazing."





## New and Emerging Affiliates Energized By Early Success

**Several new affiliates or chapters** of existing affiliates started successfully in 2015, while emerging affiliates—those no more than five years old—continued to make strong progress.

- In its first year of operation, the **Sarasota, Florida Affiliate**, launched with help from Stantec, started with 70 students and finished with a very low attrition rate. It awarded \$2,900 in scholarships.
- As a start-up in 2015, the **Eastern Iowa Affiliate** attracted 150 students from Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, mentored by 45 industry professionals. The students designed a \$250,000 STEM Center for a middle school. The project broke ground in late spring and was completed in August. Twelve ACE students were awarded internships to work on it.

- With Stantec's help, a North Dallas ACE chapter started under the auspices of the **Dallas/Fort Worth Affiliate**. It ran an abbreviated program this year with 33 students and 21 mentors.



The CH2M Hill Foundation gave \$10,000 to the Puerto Rico Affiliate.

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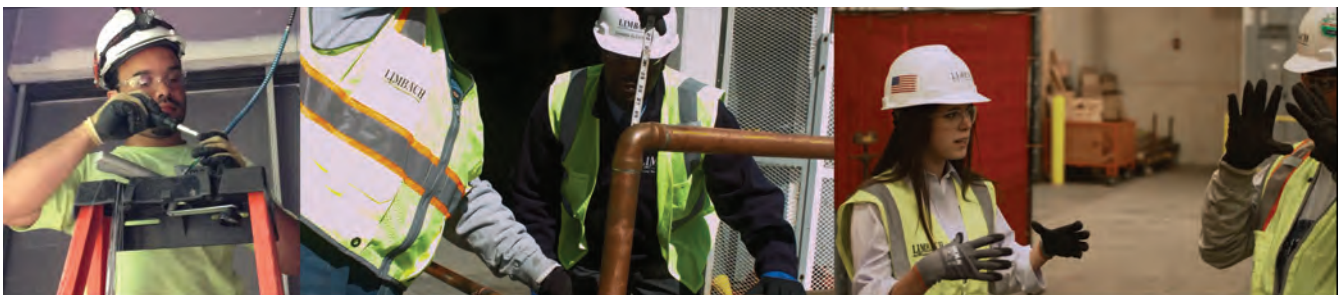
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- Linked to the **Tampa, Florida Affiliate**, the Polk County chapter grew from 21 to 36 students and awarded six scholarships worth \$9,000 in its second year of operation.
- The **Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania Affiliate** re-activated after a hiatus of three years with assistance from the local chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors. The affiliate expects to expand from one to four teams in 2016.
- Gensler has helped restart the **Austin, Texas Affiliate**, which will host five student teams in fall 2015.
- Since it became an independent affiliate two years ago, the **Rochester, New York Affiliate** has introduced some innovative programs to support its two student teams including an auction of miniature playhouses designed and built by students as a fundraiser.
- The County Executive from New Castle, Delaware was so impressed with the student final presentations that he announced he will give the **Delaware Affiliate** \$10,000. The students designed a library/community center, which dovetails with the county's master plan.
- Completing its third year, the **Puerto Rico Affiliate** expanded from 58 to 100 students. It received a \$10,000 grant from CM2H Hill's foundation. CSA Group is the affiliate's primary organizing force.
- Started in 2011, the **Inland Empire, California Affiliate** has expanded to three teams with 76 students and raised \$103,000 over this period.
- The **Twin Cities Affiliate** doubled the number of mentors (now 25) during its four years of operation, students have grown five-fold (49), and more than one-half of its participants are minorities. The affiliate has distributed \$28,500 in scholarships since it began.
- Since its start in 2011, the **Charleston, South Carolina Affiliate** has doubled the number of students to 22. Its first fundraising event, a golf tournament, generated \$7,000. It awarded two \$1,000 scholarships this year.
- An affiliate in **Salt Lake City** was officially established through the efforts of some leaders in the Utah chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Its first team will start in the fall of 2015.
- Organizers in Greenville, S.C., Las Vegas, Nev., and Baton Rouge, La. laid the groundwork for the formal establishment of affiliates. ■



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# Affiliate Special Honors and Recognition

In 2015, ACE affiliates earned national honors and special recognition for their achievements.

- The **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate** was selected as a finalist for the Most Innovative Hands-on Project in the architecture category of the STEM Mentoring Awards national competition, whose purpose is to identify effective STEM mentoring programs reaching underserved communities. With this distinction came an invitation to a White House ceremony and STEM symposium in July. The competition was under the auspices of US2020, a new organization created after a White House call for solutions addressing STEM educational challenges.
- The Dallas chapter of the American Institute of Architects bestowed on the **Dallas/Fort Worth Affiliate** the AIA Dallas Community Honors Award.
- John Jay High School in San Antonio, part of the **San Antonio Affiliate**, won the College Board's Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts under the Civic Engagement/Professional Partnerships category in large part because of its ACE program. The College Board testing organization granted the school \$5,000, which it will use to advance the work of the ACE team.
- The **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate** was named an Afterschool Champion by the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network. ■

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## ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT

### DAVID KANE Philadelphia, Penn.

Inspired by his father, a professional welder and all-around handyman, David learned to love building things and sought to emulate his father's passion for the crafts. With his father's encouragement, David decided in high school that he would be an architect, and at the recommendation of his guidance counselor, joined ACE in his senior year (2005-2006).

He says, "I didn't really know what to expect from ACE or how it would fit with my sports schedules or my career aspirations. I quickly saw the value, though. My favorite part was group collaboration, brainstorming and visiting architecture, engineering and construction firms."

After high school graduation, David attended Hampton University to earn a Master's Degree in Architecture (2011), only to find that jobs were scarce as the country was in the midst of economic downturn. He opted to add to his résumé with a second master's degree in construction management from Philadelphia University. David is the first in his family to earn a college degree.

Today, David is working for a construction management firm in the Philadelphia area. He says, "I love the business of design and construction and one day hope to have my own company with a focus on sustainable design."

He's also giving back to ACE as a mentor for the **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate**, adding, "It's rewarding to return to where I started and give back. I can offer some tips about college and the profession, much like my mentors did when I was in high school." As well, David continues the friendships he established a decade ago with his ACE mentors.



# 2015 ENR-ACE Outstanding Mentors

A jury of previous Outstanding Mentor Award winners selected five exceptional mentors as 2015 ENR-ACE Outstanding Mentors, sponsored by *Engineering News-Record* and Dodge Data & Analytics. Their contributions to students, fellow mentors and affiliates epitomize the dedication and effectiveness of ACE's nearly 2,500 mentors. To honor the five 2015 Outstanding Mentors, each of their affiliates has received a \$2,500 student scholarship to be named in their honor.



**Matthew Barnard,  
S.E., P.E.**

*Principal, Degenkolb Engineers*

A 10-year mentor and seven-year board member with the **Los Angeles**

**Affiliate**, Matt has contributed to ACE in many significant and creative ways. In his early days of mentoring, he expanded the Downtown LA Team from one to five high schools. He also managed the affiliate's annual daylong pasta bridge building contest that attracts students from all over the city. In 2008, he created the affiliate's first Trades Day giving students hands-on exposure to the skilled craft professions. In 2014-2015, 325 students participated in four different Trades Day events. At his firm, he has recruited half of his Los Angeles colleagues to participate in various ACE activities.



**Joseph A. De Marco**

*Manager of Operations, F&T Apparel, LLC*

As a mentor for the **Northeast Florida Affiliate**, Joe has left his

mark on dozens of young people and the community. In 2012, he created the affiliate's first national competition team focused on developing a project for the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition. This year, his team is one of the three finalists in the competition. As well, Joe trains and empowers students on the national competition team to become peer mentors for ACE students on other teams. Joe devotes several hundred hours a year to ACE as a mentor and event organizer. His team's activities frequently garner the attention of local press and even the county school board.



**Anastasia Huggins, AIA**

*Senior Associate, Gensler*

Anastasia has played a pivotal role in the growth of the **Greater Boston Affiliate** for the past seven years. She

mentors ACE students in high school and continues that mentoring relationship through college. She also serves as the affiliate's board secretary. She relinquished her role as student coordinator in 2013 to become mentor coordinator in charge of training. In 2012, she co-created a detailed five-year strategic plan for the affiliate. Many of its goals have been accomplished. For the past three years, she has participated in fundraising efforts that have more than doubled the value of donations.



**Kevin Brown Jr., E.I.T.**

*Construction Manager, Urban Engineers*

"ACE opened the door for me ... and now I'm giving back." These words from

Kevin reflect his strong appreciation for the **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate** where he was an ACE student. Today, he is a highly active ACE mentor and board member. He is the first in his family to earn a college degree (civil engineering) in 2009, and became an ACE mentor in 2010. Kevin has spoken at his affiliate's annual scholarship breakfasts and is involved in the committee to promote mentor recruitment and retention. His employer, Urban Engineers, thinks so highly of Kevin that it established an annual \$5,000 ACE student scholarship in his name.



**Ellie L. Stanoch, P.E.**

Just two years out of engineering school, Ellie began mentoring with the newly established **Indianapolis Affiliate** in 2006. Since then, she's become an

enthusiastic team leader expanding the program to new schools including her alma mater. After she was laid off during the economic downturn, Ellie focused her priorities on mentoring for ACE along with balancing the demands of a young family and part-time work. Today, Ellie counsels students about college and career choices, even after they graduate from high school. She also instituted an end-of-the-year wrap-up session for mentors and students to bring closure to the year, a practice that is followed by all Indianapolis teams today.





## CIRT-ACE National Design Competition – Chicago's Park City Design Wins Top Honors

The **Park City redevelopment project** designed by **ACE Chicago** Team 1 won the 9th Annual CIRT-ACE National Design Competition held on April 27, 2015 in Washington, D.C. with an impressive five-zone master plan for a deteriorated downtown area along the Chicago River. The clever concept included designs for a recreation center, landscaped amphitheater, skate park, food truck area and dog park, plus a carefully defined budget, a sustainability study and construction schedule.

Perhaps most impressive about this team is the students themselves. They come from 10 different high schools and are 95% minority and largely from resource-challenged neighborhoods. Two students travelled over 30 miles one way to get to their weekly team meetings.

Pat O'Connell, executive director of the Chicago Affiliate, says, "The fact that they are successful graduates of our program and award winners to boot is a wonderful testament to their enthusiasm and commitment and to the dedication and skill of their mentors. We are very proud of them all."



The ACE Illinois/Chicago Team won 1st place in the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition.

**ACE of Frederick, Maryland** took second place for its design of a bus rapid transit system running between Richardson and Dallas, Texas. The **Northeast Florida Affiliate's** Orange Park High School/Team Mark-O earned

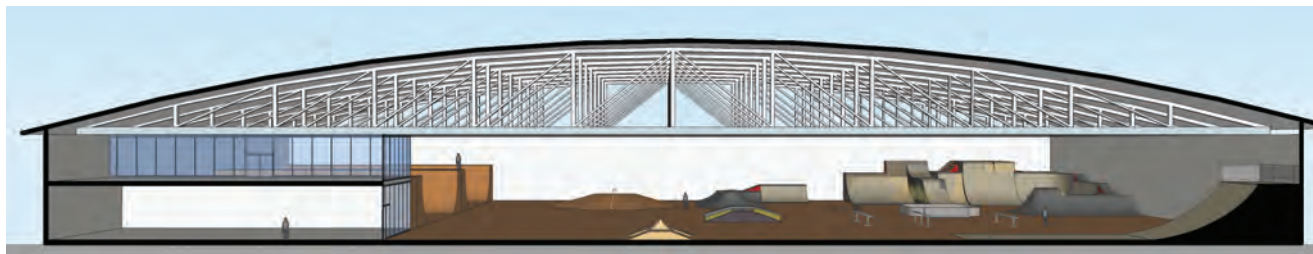


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A section of a skate park, one element in the Chicago's team's winning design for an urban park.

third place for its Harmony Springs Health Clinic design.

In addition to the three finalists, which received awards of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000, six other teams were recognized as either First Runner-Up (\$1,000 award) or Second Runner-Up (\$500 award) in each of the three different design challenges or options.

### Health Clinic Challenge

- 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa** for CONNECT-A-CLINIC
- 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Houston/Bechtel** for Meditech Maternity Hospital

### City Centre Challenge

- 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor San Diego, Calif./San Diego High School ACE Club Team** for New Imperial Beach
- 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Michigan/Detroit Chapter** for Gateway Park

### Transportation/Road Systems Challenge

- 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor San Diego, Calif./Southwest High School Team** for U.S.-Mexico Pedestrian Crossing Area at the San Ysidro Port of Entry
- 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Greater NYC/**

Team 30 for Hunters-Union Tunnel

A special Best Presentation Boards Award (\$250) was given to the **ACE Mentor Program of Miami-Dade County** for its Blurred Lines entry boards in the Transportation challenge category.

A record 46 entries from across the country were submitted and evaluated for top honors in the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition.

"The quality and level of the entries were the strongest they have ever been in the nine-year history of the competition, making the job of the judges all that more difficult," commented CIRT President Mark Casso. ■



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## ACE Mentors are on Top

In 2015 many ACE mentors under the age of 40 were named to "top" lists around the country in part because of their volunteer work for ACE.

### ENR Top 20 under 40

- **Noah Boro**, Turner Construction, Los Angeles Affiliate
- **Jesse Chrismer**, Thornton Tomasetti, Greater New York Affiliate
- **Angela Cotie**, Gilbane, Houston Affiliate
- **Vineta Clegg**, Gensler, Austin, Texas Affiliate
- **Jared Edwards**, HES Consulting Engineers, Dallas/Fort Worth Affiliate
- **Craig Kotarski**, Timmons Group, Central Virginia Affiliate, Charlottesville Chapter
- **Virginia Marquardt**, DLR Group, Los Angeles Affiliate
- **Jason Mrozek**, McCarthy Building Companies, San Diego Affiliate
- **Greg Roth**, Skanska, San Francisco Bay Area Affiliate

### Consulting-Specifying Engineer Top 40 under 40

- **Amanda Beck**, Primera Engineers, Chicago Affiliate
- **Calina Ferraro**, Randall Lamb Associates, San Diego Affiliate

### Building Design+Construction Top 40 under 40

- **Kelly Altes**, KJWW Engineering, Central Iowa Affiliate

### AIA - Rochester Chapter, 2015 Emerging Architect of the Year

- **Michael Short**, LaBella Associates, Rochester, New York Affiliate ■



Tampa Affiliate students prepare sketches of their hotel project.

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ACE's 66 affiliates are spread across 34 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For more information about each affiliate, check **[www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)**.

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### ARIZONA

#### **Phoenix**

[phoenixAZ@acementor.org](mailto:phoenixAZ@acementor.org)

### CALIFORNIA

#### **Central California (Fresno)**

[centralca@acementor.org](mailto:centralca@acementor.org)

#### **Inland Empire**

[inlandempirecountyca@acementor.org](mailto:inlandempirecountyca@acementor.org)

#### **Los Angeles**

[losangelesca@acementor.org](mailto:losangelesca@acementor.org)

#### **Sacramento**

[sacramentoca@acementor.org](mailto:sacramentoca@acementor.org)

#### **San Diego**

[acesd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acesd@sbcglobal.net)

#### **San Francisco Bay Area**

[sanfranciscoca@acementor.org](mailto:sanfranciscoca@acementor.org)

### COLORADO

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#### *Hartford Chapter*

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#### *New Haven Chapter*

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#### *Waterbury Chapter*

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### DELAWARE

[delaware@acementor.org](mailto:delaware@acementor.org)

### FLORIDA

#### **Broward County**

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[CentralFL@acementor.org](mailto:CentralFL@acementor.org)

#### **Dade County (Miami)**

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#### **Northeast Florida (Jacksonville)**

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#### **Palm Beach/Martin County**

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#### **Southwest Florida (Ft. Myers)**

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#### *Polk County Chapter*

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### GEORGIA

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### ILLINOIS

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### INDIANA

#### **Indianapolis**

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### IOWA

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#### **Eastern Iowa (Cedar Rapids/Iowa City)**

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#### **Northern Iowa (Mason City)**

[NorthernIowa@acementor.org](mailto:NorthernIowa@acementor.org)

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### MAINE

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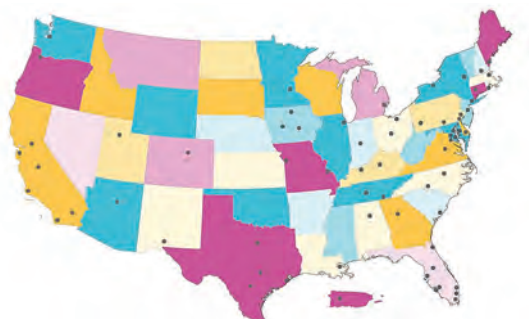
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## ENR'S ANNUAL ACE MENTOR YEARBOOK 2015

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## Keep Up with ACE on Social Media



# A Q&A with ACE President and CEO Jack Kalavritinos about ACE Today...and Tomorrow

PHOTO: NOEL ST. JOHN



**ENR: How will your background in Washington D.C.'s private and public sectors help ACE?**

**JK:** A successful non-profit often succeeds by combining the experience of its chief executive, with the deep industry knowledge and business acumen of its board. Having served as a presidential appointee, a Capitol Hill staffer and as a

business advocate for a healthcare company and engineering association (ACEC), I have developed a good feel for how to get things done here in Washington and how to communicate a group's value or a powerful idea to wider audiences.

**ENR: What impresses you so far about ACE?**

**JK:** The passion everyone involved in ACE has for its mission. Students exude excitement, mentors sacrifice time to "give back," and national and local sponsors demonstrate great generosity. And then there are the volunteer national and local leaders who work so hard to make ACE a success.

I feel extremely fortunate to be surrounded by a first-class group of industry leaders—from Chairman Tom Gilbane to the iconic Honorary Chair Charlie Thornton, to the rest of our strong Board of Directors. And I inherited a great team at ACE national who are spread out across the country, and helping to add value to the affiliate ACE Mentor teams and to our national operations.

**ENR: What are your top priorities for 2015 and 2016?**

**JK:** First, as I get a better sense of the successes and challenges of local affiliates and national operations, I intend to create a plan for future growth. This will require input from everyone.

Second, I want to improve the value ACE national provides

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**Thornton Tomasetti**

Thornton Tomasetti salutes Chairman Charlie Thornton and the ACE Mentor program for their leadership in the design and construction industry.

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local leaders—from fundraising strategies to enhanced communication vehicles, to strengthened compliance procedures.

Finally, ACE needs to raise its visibility with the media and key opinion leaders by more clearly communicating the value and benefit we provide students, firms, industry and society.

**ENR: As you visited affiliates to see ACE in action, what has surprised you?**

**JK:** I have travelled to affiliates in Puerto Rico, Charlotte, Charleston, Chicago, Salt Lake City and, of course, Washington, D.C. I'm amazed by the creativity and sophistication of students' final projects. Our mentors' dedication is inspiring. And our sponsors' generous commitment to ACE is humbling. This coming year, I look forward to seeing more mentoring in action, experiencing how teams use the various tools we provide and seeing first-hand the amazing opportunities our partners



PHOTO: GREGORY JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Nashville Affiliate team members from the Architecture Construction Career Academy.

create for students.

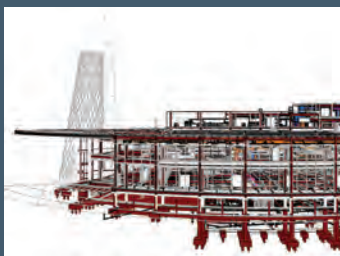
**ENR: How are you trying to tell ACE's story?**

**JK:** I have put a priority on improving communications. We ramped up our social media presence since so many people today stay in touch with news this way. We also created a monthly

e-newsletter—*ACE Insider*—received by thousands of ACE family members, including alumni. With assistance from the EMCOR Group, a major national sponsor, we revamped our website with lots of visual and substantive improvements. I hope everyone will log onto [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org) where they will see new videos and images that tell ACE's story in compelling, fresh ways. ■



Below: Virtual model and photograph  
Technology Tower at Talley Student Center, North Carolina State University



**At Rodgers, our passion is building.**

We're proud supporters of ACE, igniting a spark in students who become passionate about careers in architecture, engineering and construction.

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## ACE in the Press and on the Air 2014-2015

Newspapers, periodicals and broadcast outlets continue to spread news of ACE's success, as demonstrated by the following sample of press coverage from the past year.

- The **New Orleans Affiliate** was featured in two TV broadcasts—WVUE on March 10, 2015 and WWL on June 19, 2015.
- *The Williamson Herald* (April 23, 2015) featured a **Nashville Affiliate** team's concept for the city's zoo.
- The **Chicago Affiliate's** efforts to steer high school students into the talent pipeline were prominently highlighted in a May 29, 2015 *Chicago Tribune* article.
- The scholarship programs of the **Connecticut Affiliate** and the **Portland, Oregon Affiliate** were the focus of stories in the

*Hartford Courant* (May 28, 2015) and *The Oregonian* (May 22, 2015), respectively.

- The June 2015 of *Smart Dynamics of Masonry* carried a two-page article authored by a former **Nashville Affiliate** board member about ACE.
- On October 23, 2014, KGAN-TV in Iowa City profiled the **Eastern Iowa Affiliate's** program and on April 22, 2015 broadcast a story about the groundbreaking for the STEM Center at Clear Creek Amana School, which ACE students designed. On July 6, 2015 Iowa City's Gazette ran a story about the students' participation in the building's construction.
- The first-year **Sarasota, Florida Affiliate's** program was profiled in the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* (April 26, 2015).

- *Charlottesville Tomorrow* (January 21, 2015) described the Charlottesville chapter of the **Central Virginia Affiliate**.
- The *New England Real Estate Journal* (August 29, 2014) ran an in-depth account of the **Boston Affiliate**.
- A construction site tour by a **Lexington, Kentucky Affiliate** team was written up in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* (January 11, 2015).
- A **Frederick, Maryland Affiliate** team's design for a memorial playground for two sisters who died in a house fire was featured in the April 16, 2015 *Frederick News-Post*.
- *The Penn Current* (February 19, 2015) described the activities of two **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate** teams that meet on the University of Pennsylvania campus. ■



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