



**ACE MENTOR PROGRAM**  
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

## For Immediate Release

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## ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa Students Selected in National Competition

The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa (ACE C-IA) is sending a team of Des Moines-area high school students to Washington, DC to compete in the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)/ACE Mentor Program National Design Competition. Their design submission of a Modular School Addition was recently selected as one of three finalists out of 43 entries from ACE affiliates nationwide. The students will present the project at the CIRT Spring Conference on April 30 in Washington, DC. As a finalist, the Central Iowa team will have the opportunity to compete for the top prize of \$5,000 before a panel of distinguished judges from the CIRT, including CEOs from top design/construction firms.

In the fall of 2012, ACE C-IA established a select team of veteran students who were seeking a deeper, more-focused exploration of architecture, construction, and engineering to form the Competition Team. National Competition team members include:

- Nicole Bramow, Ankeny HS
- Sirina Reed, Ankeny HS
- Joseph Bahnsen, DM East HS
- Ross Nickey, DM Lincoln HS
- Eric Cole, Southeast Polk HS
- Katie Smithart, Southeast Polk HS
- Jordan Hutton, WDM Valley HS
- Saketh Undurty, WDM Valley HS

In addition, professional mentors from local businesses have contributed over 250 hours of volunteer time to help guide the competition team through the design process. These mentors include:

- Josh Ridgely, SVPA Architects
- Mike Dean, INVISION Architecture/Planning
- Stacie Ellickson-Hastie, Confluence
- Jonathan Vaage, Charles Saul Engineering
- Brant Bristow, Tometich Engineering

Lastly, through generous donations from the following sponsors, 13 students, mentors, and chaperones will attend the presentation in Washington DC:

- ACE Mentor Program of America
- Construction Industry Round Table
- Sheet Metal Contractors of Iowa
- Mechanical Contractors Association of Iowa
- National Electrical Contractors Association, Iowa Chapter
- Ankeny Community School District
- Designer Custom Buildings
- INVISION Architecture/Interiors
- Baker Group
- Abraham Lincoln High School
- The Wellmark Foundation (employer match via Brian Bahnsen)
- Speck USA
- Brian Bahnsen
- Miki McGovern



**About ACE:** The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa is an affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program of America. Since 2006, over 375 Des Moines-area high school students have been introduced to the integrated construction industry. Further, through the generous

donations by local architecture, construction, and engineering firms, The ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa has awarded 40 students a total of \$79,000 in scholarships to further their ACE-related education. In addition, the ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa was recognized as an exemplary STEM Program by Governor Branstad's STEM Advisory Council in 2012.

The ACE Mentor Program of America, established in 1995 in New York, currently has a presence in over 200 cities across the US, including affiliates in Des Moines and in Mason City, IA. This year alone over 8,000 students and almost 5,000 mentors are participating in the program; 70% are minorities and 40% are young women. The ACE Mentor program of America received a 2010 Presidential Award from President Obama for Excellence in Science Math and Engineering Mentoring. For more information on the ACE Mentor Program of America visit <http://www.acementor.org/>

**ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa**

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