



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

For Immediate Release

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LOCAL STUDENTS WIN 1ST PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Eight Des Moines-area high school students, from the ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa (ACE C-IA) claimed the top prize of \$5,000 this week in the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)/ACE Mentor Program National Design Competition. The student group traveled to Washington, DC where Joseph Bahnsen of DM East High School presented their mock design for a Modular Education Addition to a panel of judges that included CEOs from top national design and construction firms.

The students were given three potential project options to pursue. Based on their own experiences with subpar 'portable' classrooms, the students felt that this problem was the most important to address and had the greatest potential for innovative design and construction. Between September, 2012 and March 2013, the students met once a week to discuss ideas, propose solutions and, ultimately, create an award-winning project that address design at multiple scales. Utilizing factory-built modules that can be quickly fabricated and shipped to sites throughout the nation, the team soon realized that their education module had added benefits including creating better learning environments for low-income school districts and even providing temporary structures to aid disaster relief efforts.

The teams were judged their ability to make a clear, comprehensive, coherent and cogent presentation on the design/construction approaches while being fully responsive to the competition package elements in the challenge/RFP.

"The students and mentors worked incredibly hard during the course of the season to solve one large problem, and in turn, ended up solving a lot of little ones. It was equally challenging to put these solutions onto competition boards in a format so that the judges could, with no other written or verbal description, fully understand our process and our product. Being selected to present the project in Washington, DC in front of an esteemed panel of judges was an honor in itself; walking away

with first place wasn't something we expected but was certainly an exciting finale to a fun and productive season." Josh Ridgely, Architect, SVPA

ACE C-IA 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, professionals from local businesses contributed more than 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/Interiors
- Stacie Ellickson-Hastie, Confluence
- Jonathan Vaage, Charles Saul Engineering
- Brant Bristow, Tometich Engineering

Lastly, through generous donations from the following sponsors, a delegation of 12 students, mentors, and chaperones attended the presentation in Washington, DC:

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



Joey Bahnsen presents to CIRT/ACE judges



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



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/>

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