



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

WICOMICO NEWSLETTER



We're thrilled to share a significant milestone with our valued ACE Mentor Group community. After months of dedication, collaboration, and unwavering passion for mentorship and education, we're delighted to announce the establishment of our very own Wicomico Board for ACE.

This initiative marks a pivotal moment in our journey, allowing us to take our commitment to nurturing talent and fostering opportunities for aspiring professionals in the architecture, construction, and engineering industries to new heights. The formation of the board underscores our collective vision for continued growth, innovation, and community impact.

MEET OUR CHAIR - CHRISTINE SMITH

I'm Christine Smith, an architectural designer at Becker Morgan Group in Salisbury, MD. Having dedicated 2 ½ years to working in Wicomico County and actively participating as an ACE mentor for the past 2 years, I am delighted to share my journey. Previously serving on the board for ACE Mentor Eastern Shore, I am thrilled to step into the role of chair for the newly formed ACE Mentorship Wicomico board. My enduring passion for engaging and educating students about the architecture, construction, and engineering industry drives my commitment to leading ACE Mentorship in Wicomico. It's an honor to contribute to the growth and development of future professionals in our community.

OUR MISSION

To engage, excite, and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction through mentoring and continued support for their advancement into the industry.

To assist and guide students by providing scholarships and mentoring as they pursue career pathways into the industry.

THANK YOU TO OUR MENTORS!!!

Andrew Welch, Cody Faulkner, Faith Metcalf, Megan Kelly, and Zachary Cioccio



MEET OUR SECRETARY – ANDREA SUK

Dr. Andrea Suk is a dedicated professional with an extensive educational background. She earned her bachelor's degree in Learning Behavior Specialist from Bradley University and holds a Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Suk has made significant contributions as a high school special education teacher. Dr. Suk's commitment to excellence has earned her recognition as the ACE Mentor of the Year in Phoenix, the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in Glendale, Arizona, and she is a proud recipient of the Target Grant Field Trip. Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Suk is a certified therapeutic horseback riding instructor, reflecting her diverse and compassionate approach to education.

MEET JASON MULLEN

Jason Mullen, Dean of Workforce Programs at Chesapeake College, facilitates collaboration between ACE Mentors and the college's educational offerings. A first-generation college graduate from Caroline County, he earned dual Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Marine Science from the University of Tampa. Later, he obtained an MBA in Organizational Leadership from Wilmington University. With a background rooted in the construction industry, inherited from his father, a Master Brick Mason, Jason funded his education using skills learned from his father. After a decade in laboratories, he transitioned to teaching high school in Boston, MA. Returning to the Eastern Shore, Jason has dedicated 16 years to various roles at Chesapeake College.

MEET OUR VICE CHAIR – WILL RILEY

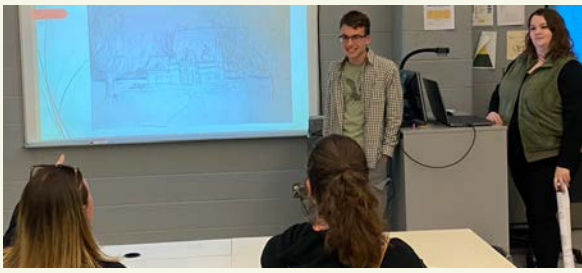
Meet Will Riley, an alumnus of Illinois State University, who brings over 15 years of expertise in the construction industry. Over the course of his career, Will has contributed his skills to three General Contractors, initially diving into preconstruction, transitioning to Project Management, and ultimately making the leap to Superintendent six years ago. With a diverse portfolio, Will has successfully managed projects ranging from \$20 million to \$1 billion across five states, collaborating with 16 different owners along the way.



MEET OUR TREASURER – ADAM LEONARD

Serving as a project manager at Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in Salisbury, Adam has proven to be an invaluable asset for ACE students in Wicomico. He has shared insights on construction matters, and his efforts include coordinating numerous educational field trips to local jobsites. He looks forward to bringing his skills and dedication to the ACE Wicomico Board!





MEET TIM CHATTERTON

Chatterton is an architectural engineer with 25 years of design, project coordination, construction phase services, specifications, and drawing management experience. He oversees Allen + Shariff Corporation's Salisbury office where his responsibilities include supervising personnel, client interaction, budgeting, and proposal preparation. He is also responsible for HVAC system selection and design, specifications, energy studies, writing design guidelines, value engineering, complete inter-discipline coordination and quality control. His project types include healthcare, commercial and industrial, municipal, office, higher education, K-12 schools, residential, religious, tenant fit-out, public entities, and retail facilities. Mr. Chatterton has volunteered with the ACE Mentor Program for many years as an in-classroom mentor and is now excited to bring his experience to the ACE Mentorship Wicomico Board.

CONNECT WITH WICOMICO ACE

In addition to this semiannual newsletter, Wicomico ACE will utilize the following channels to enable our supporters to track our advancements, stay informed about upcoming fundraisers, and discover additional opportunities for our students.

Email: acewicomicocounty@gmail.com

TikTok: [acewicomico](https://www.tiktok.com/@acewicomico)

WHAT'S TO COME

1. Project Updates: Sharing the latest developments on ongoing projects within the ACE mentor group.
2. Student Success Stories: Showcasing success stories of students who have benefitted from the ACE program.
3. Upcoming Events
4. Industry News and Trends: Providing insights into current trends and news in the architecture, construction, and engineering industries.
5. Featured Mentors and Mentees: Spotlighting the contributions of specific mentors and mentees within the group.
6. Alumni Updates: Keeping members informed about the accomplishments and career paths of ACE program alumni.
7. Tips and Resources: Sharing useful tips, resources, or tools relevant to the fields of architecture, construction, and engineering.



INTERESTED IN JOINING WICOMICO ACE?

Are you eager to engage with students passionate about architecture, construction, and engineering? Wicomico ACE is continually seeking to expand our leadership team. Whether you're interested in joining the board, becoming a weekly mentor, or sharing your expertise through a guest lecture, we welcome the opportunity to connect with you!

Reach out to Andrea Suk at alsuk@salisbury for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?

The fact of the matter is that structural engineers fight gravity. We make things stand up, resisting the forces of nature and the forces imposed by people using the structure. Our chief weapons in this fight are a calculator, a scale ruler, experience, wisdom, and judgement. ~ Andrew Derbidge





MEET OUR MEDIA AND EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST – FRANKLIN MARKEL

Franklin is currently a sophomore at Salisbury University. He is majoring in mathematics with the intention to graduate with his secondary education license to become a math teacher. At Salisbury he is a member of the men's soccer team. He is also a member of the Clarke Honors College at Salisbury and has been awarded a spot on the soccer teams all conference academic squad!!

MEET OUR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – EMILY KIRCHNER

I'm Emily Kirchner, a senior at James M. Bennett, and I am excited to share my journey with you. This fall, I will be embarking on a new chapter at Salisbury University, majoring in Dual-degree Engineering Transfer and joining the Clarke Honors College. My journey into engineering began during a captivating internship at NASA Wallops Flight Facility, where I served as a Research Lab Intern. Working alongside Civil and Aerospace Engineers fueled my fascination with the field.

I am thrilled to channel my passion for engineering and collaborative spirit into my role as the ACE Board of Wicomico Student Representative.



MEET OUR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – ELIZABETH OLVERA-BONILLA

I'm currently a sophomore at Wicomico High School, and I'm enrolled in Parkside's CTE program. Looking ahead, I have my sights set on pursuing an architecture degree at Virginia Tech post-graduation. It fills me with enthusiasm to bring my skills, passion for architecture, and collaborative spirit to the ACE Board of Wicomico as a proud member of the student representatives.

TO SUPPORT ACE WICOMICO

To contribute and be a part of this meaningful journey, please donate using the directions below. Together, let's turn possibilities into realities and sow the seeds of positive change.

Send Checks to:
ACE Mentor Program of America
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

In the Note Section Indicate Donation is for ACE Wicomico

Make Checks Out to ACE Mentor Program of America



DID YOU KNOW?

During the first four decades of the modern Olympic Games, 151 medals were awarded for music, painting, sculpture, literature, and architecture. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who revived the modern games and founded the International Olympic Committee, considered art an essential part of the competition. The one caveat: every submission had to be sports-related. ~ Smithsonian Magazine

NOTE FROM AN EDUCATOR – HEMALALTHA BHASKARAN

Wicomico Public Schools understands the importance of hands-on learning experiences in shaping the future of our students. That's why we offer a diverse range of STEM, Engineering, Technology and CTE courses specifically designed to cater to the interests and ambitions of budding architects, builders, and engineers. These courses provide a unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, equipping students with the tools they need to thrive in the dynamic fields of architecture, construction, and engineering.

To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of their chosen fields, Wicomico Public Schools actively collaborates with local businesses, industry partners, and groups like the ACE Mentor Group. Through internships, job shadowing opportunities, and guest lectures, students gain valuable insights into the practical applications of their learning, establishing connections that can prove invaluable in their future careers.

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Hema is the Supervisor of Science, STEM and Environmental Literacy for Wicomico County Public Schools. She is passionate about providing meaningful educational experiences for all students. Her goal is to equip students with 21st century skills. Hema was recognized by CBT as the State's Environmental Teacher of the Year, she has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching (2019), she was named Wicomico County Teacher of the Year for 2020-2021 and she was one of the 7 finalists for Maryland Teacher of the Year 2020-2021. Her goal is to make STEM opportunities accessible to all students. She firmly believes in the vision of the ACE mentoring program as it provides students with opportunities to explore career opportunities with mentors who care! She is excited to be a part of the Wicomico ACE Mentoring Board and is looking forward to all the learning opportunities for students.



## HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP? FUN TRIVIA QUESTIONS

How many stories tall is the Ross Building in Salisbury?

How many squared feet is the WorWic Applied Technology Building?

What is the duration of the Mardella Middle/High School project?

\*\*Students have toured each of these sites on ACE field trips.

14 STORIES; 52,000 SF; 36 MONTHS

## ACE FINAL GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION - MARCH 6, 2024

In their culminating group project, ACE students are delving into the intricacies of construction and design with a focus on planning, resilience, and sustainability in waterfront areas. The project aims to investigate best practices and inventive strategies for creating resilient and sustainable developments along rivers, lakes, and seashores. Specifically, the students are concentrating on Flood Hazard Area Zones that are susceptible to storm surge inundation, flooding, or water invasion.

By concentrating efforts on a localized waterfront area, students are tasked with creating solutions that contribute to the preservation of the neighborhood's value and heritage as a water shoreline or coastal community. The anticipated outcome of these innovative solutions and constructions is to empower local municipalities in safeguarding their communities against the impacts of flooding while preserving the intrinsic charm and historical significance of the waterfront. Stay tuned for updates on the remarkable ideas and creative approaches our ACE students bring to this critical challenge.

### JOIN US FOR FINAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

March 6, 2024

6pm - 9pm

St. Peter and Paul High School, Easton Maryland

\$10 per person

\*\*\*In addition to the final group project, students have the opportunity to participate in an ACE Showcase. During the dinner and social hour, students will share their individual interests in skills.

### MEET OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR - CT DARNELL CONSTRUCTION

Based in Alpharetta, GA, we are led by Travis Darnell, President/Co-Owner and Clint Darnell, Vice President/Co-Owner. You may not know the CT Darnell Construction name, but you already know a lot about us. We have created innovative building solutions for many of the top firms in America. In fact, the Darnell family has been solving construction challenges for three generations. We have also evolved a lot over time. From designing innovative racking systems and state of the art lumberyards, to building modern travel centers and offices, we are a company on the move.



**College Park Library**  
College Park



**Menards ASRS**  
Eau Claire, WI



**First Intercontinental Bank**  
Norcross, GA

## MEET OUR SPONSORS – WHITING-TURNER

Whiting-Turner Contracting Company stands as a cornerstone in the construction industry, renowned for its unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation. With a rich history dating back to 1909, Whiting-Turner has consistently delivered high-quality projects across various sectors, earning a reputation for reliability and integrity. Their approach to construction is characterized by a perfect blend of cutting-edge technology, sustainability practices, and a relentless pursuit of client satisfaction. Beyond their impressive portfolio, Whiting-Turner actively engages in philanthropy and educational support, exemplified by their recent generous donation to the Wicomico ACE Mentor Group. As a company that values both its legacy and the future of the industry, Whiting-Turner continues to set the standard for construction excellence.



Wicomico County Board of Education, Blue Water Development Group, Salisbury University, Worcester County

## MEET OUR SPONSORS – ALLEN + SHARIFF

Allen+Shariff MEP Engineering stands as a beacon of expertise in the field, known for its exceptional Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) engineering solutions. With a commitment to innovation and sustainable design, Allen+Shariff has consistently played a pivotal role in shaping the built environment. Their recent generous donation to the ACE Mentor Group reflects not only their dedication to advancing the industry but also their commitment to nurturing the next generation of architects, engineers, and construction professionals. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Allen+Shariff for their invaluable support, which will undoubtedly contribute to the success and growth of the ACE Mentor Group's educational initiatives. Their contribution serves as a testament to their vision for a thriving and skilled workforce in the architecture, construction, and engineering (ACE) industry.

