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Students present Ace Mentor projects

By KATIE SULLIVAN Star Democrat Community Editor | [0 comments](#)



ACE Mentor Program scholarship recipients

Seniors, juniors and sophomores in the ACE Mentor Program received scholarships March 3 at the annual awards breakfast. Standing from left are Robert LeMaire, Alec Chosta, Jamel Pinder, Ben Payne, Dylan Peter, Richard Stacy, Tim West, Christopher Potosnak, Marco Genova, Dylan Lahman and Linda Seymour.

EASTON After months of brainstorming, research and planning, three groups representing students from Easton High School, Sts. Peter & Paul High School and St. Michaels High School presented their final projects March 3 at the sixth annual Scholarship and Awards Breakfast for the ACE Mentor Program of Maryland's Eastern Shore. The event was held in the Easton Club Banquet Room.

"We've got a wonderful group of people who make the ACE Mentor program a wonderful success," said Robert "Bob" Rauch, chairman of the ACE Breakfast Committee and a member of the board of directors.

The program introduces high school students to architecture, construction, engineering and related areas by having them work with mentors from local professional firms to complete a mock design project during the school year. The program helps attract high school students to the professions and encourages them to pursue these fields in higher education and as a career. This year's mentors include Talbot Bone of Easton Utilities, Daniel Bowen of Willow Construction, Jack Dempsey of the ACE Mentor Program, Lindsey Ellsworth of Whiting-Turner, architect Jennifer Martella, Geoff Oxnam of Easton Utilities and Katie Reedy of Barton-Malow.

Prior to the student presentations, Margaret McFarland, JD, director of the MRED Program and Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development at the University of Maryland, promoted the program while also encouraging the students.

"I want to entice you to pursue your interests," McFarland said. "The world is out there waiting for you."

She encouraged the youth, especially the three who are seniors, to pursue a master's degree after college.



The Angry Mango Mafia

The Angry Mango Mafia group included, standing in the back row from left, Tim West, Benjamin Hallet, Daniel Broskey and Marco Genova; at the microphone and Dylan Lahman.

"You've got a really good head start into getting into what your interests are," McFarland said.

The students showed off their "head start" during their presentations.

"They can come up with some pretty good ideas," said Easton Mayor Robert "Bob" Willey. "We will be seeing and working with many of you as you continue your careers."

The Purple Submersible group, including students from St. Michaels and Sts. Peter & Paul high schools, designed a floating sea school. The students included Alec Chosta, Michael Dodrill, Robert LeMaire, Dylan Peter, Linda Seymour, Ricky Stacey and Ross Wojcitz.

"We want to educate people about the Bay and hopefully encourage them to do something about (its problems)," said Seymour, the only female in the program.

The project includes two boats one focusing on marine life and the other offering hands-on interaction and works to encourage positive marine interaction and education, while promoting environmental concern.

The Alpha Bomb Squad group, including students from Easton High and Sts. Peter & Paul high schools, designed a fully automated parking garage that utilizes solar panels. The students included Scott Bell, Jamel Pinder, Chris Potosnak, Alex Schmitt and Jed Heikes. The project would be placed adjacent to Washington Street in downtown Easton to reduce congestion. The automated "carriage" rotates the car, maneuvers the car to an available spot and retrieves the car in less than three minutes.

The project is estimated at \$5 million but would be paid for by revenue from parking costs, which includes hourly, daily, weekly, monthly and yearly rates.

The Angry Mango Mafia group, including students from Sts. Peter & Paul and Easton high schools, designed the "ideal school." The school includes an enclosed campus and mimics the design of a shopping mall with large hallways and skylights. The students include Dylan Lahman, Ben Payne, Tim West, Marco Genova,

Dexter Broskey and Ben Hallet.

Blueprints showed a design for a population of 3,000 to 5,000 students with an average room size of 400 square feet for standard rooms and 800 square feet for specialized.

Project highlights include wide hallways, urban vegetation, an updated HVAC system, asymmetrical design, outdoor decks and catwalks, and skylight and tube lighting.

For their work, seniors, juniors and sophomores in the program were presented with scholarship awards to help them pursue a related career. Since the program started, more than \$60,000 in scholarships have been given out based on attendance, participation, attitude, character and the amount of donations received from sponsors, the annual breakfast and raffles. The ACE Community Award was given to Easton Utilities, a platinum sponsor for the scholarships.

"Every year it just keeps getting better," Rauch said. "We look forward to seeing you next year and continue to support ACE."



The Alpha Bomb Squad

The Alpha Bomb Squad included, from left, Alex Schmitt, Jed Heikes, Chris Potosnak and Scott Bell.



The Purple Submersible

The Purple Submersible group included, in the back row from left, Ross Wojcitz, Robert LeMaire, Alex Chosta, Richard Stacy and Michael Dodrill; speaking at the podium, Linda Seymour.



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