



Our program's mission is to enlighten and increase the awareness of high school students to career opportunities in the architecture, construction and engineering and related areas of the design and construction industry through mentoring; and to provide scholarship opportunities for students in an inclusive manner reflective of the diverse school populations.

**Message from the Chairman:**

To Our Colorado ACE Mentor Program Supporters:

I am excited to be recently voted in as the new Chairman of the ACE Mentor Program of Colorado. Bruce Davis has just stepped down after serving as Chairman of ACE Colorado since its inception in 2002 and played the primary role in getting this program off the ground in its early years. Bruce has nurtured the program to the point where it has grown substantially and has become a key asset in the educational programs in the Denver Metropolitan Area. As one of the founding members of ACE of Colorado, Bruce will continue to be a great advocate to the ACE Colorado family and will remain on our Board of Directors.

I feel so fortunate to take the reins of an organization I feel so very passionate about. My personal goal for the program is to make the fields of Architecture, Construction, and Engineering exciting for high school kids and a viable option for them in their early stages of career choices. With the high population growth expected in our region over the next several decades, it is expected that these professions are going to be underserved unless we, the professionals in these industries, do something about it. I feel passionately that we should be aggressively finding the best and brightest students at a time when they are just beginning to think of their future education and careers options. Within a few years I would love to see a steady stream of Colorado ACE graduates being hired by local businesses.

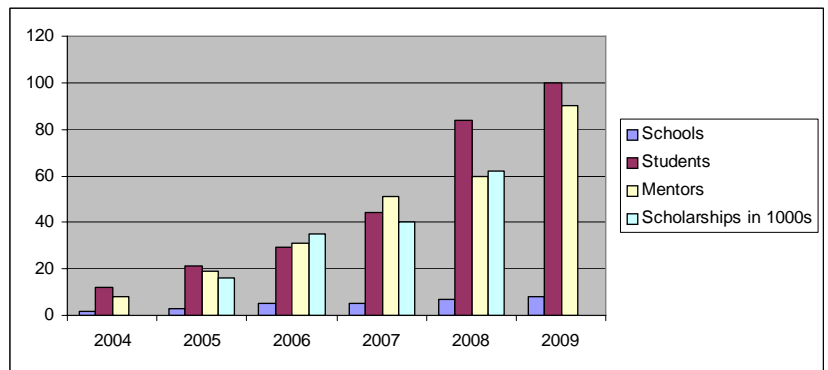
The 2009 ACE Mentor Program is off to a great start with about 90 students and approximately the same number of mentors. We are very proud that so many are involved and are so enthusiastic, how many programs can boast that type of excitement and a 1:1 ratio of mentors to students? A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers, students and donors that are involved in the program to ensure continued success.

If you have ideas or questions about the ACE Mentor Program of Colorado, please feel free to give me a call at 303.892.1166 or email jnorris@norris-design.com. I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about how to make this program better for the students in our community.

John Norris  
Chairman – ACE of Colorado Affiliate

**ACE Newsletter Hits the Streets**

The ACE Mentor Program of Colorado is excited to share with you our first newsletter. We hope this will provide you with important information and updates about our program. Since our inaugural year in 2004, the program has grown from 2 schools, 12 students and 8 mentors to 8 schools, approximately 100 students and 90 mentors in the 2009 season. We have given out \$153,000 in scholarships to students choosing to major in the fields of architecture, construction, engineering and related fields.



**ACE in 2008**

Thank you to all of our volunteers and donors for a successful 2008 program! 84 students from 7 schools within DPS and Jefferson County Public Schools completed the program in May. The students spent 16 weeks working with architects, engineers and construction professionals from the Denver Metro area. Groups were tasked with answering an RFP for the design and construction of Block 162 located in Downtown Denver. They were required to provide a temporary design for this 1.5 acre site for use during the Democratic National Convention. They were given the task of designing a structure that would provide some protection from the weather. In addition, they were required to implement LEED principles and use some renewable, recycled or reusable materials for the structure and include seating and gathering areas.

\$62,000 in scholarships was awarded to our 15 qualifying students at the presentation night due to the generous contributions of our sponsoring and mentoring firms.

The following schools will be participating in the ACE Mentoring Program in 2009:

**Denver Public Schools**

East High School | Kennedy High School | Denver School of Science and Technology  
CEC Middle College | PS 1 Charter School

**Jefferson County Public Schools**

Alameda High School | Green Mountain High School

**Cherry Creek Schools**

Smoky Hill High School

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## Featured Student

**How long have you been involved with ACE? What made you want to participate again this year?**

This is my second year with ACE. I really liked the idea of going to an office to work on a mock project that has aspects that match my interests in school. Besides getting dinner free once a week, the scholarship is also a pretty good incentive to participate. I can do something I enjoy, get free food, and (possibly) get free money. What's one reason not to do this program?

**Where are you planning to attend college and what would you like to study?**

I very recently decided that Penn State at University Park will be the best university for me. I plan to major in civil engineering with a possible minor in finance. Go Nittany Lions!

**Why do you think it is important for the ACE Mentor Program to be involved with high schools?**

ACE is one of the best programs that can be offered to high school students. Working with the professionals is perhaps the best way to get the feel for a possible job interest. This program helped me decide that building bridges and buildings is exactly what I want to do. Not all students will decide that a job in architecture, construction, or engineering is for them. But that's why ACE is so beneficial, students can test drive a profession that caught their eye before making a decision.

**What is the most valuable lesson you have learned from your mentors?**

Teamwork and communication are the skills to have when doing these projects. Without them, you can't get anywhere. Also, start out with basic ideas and work them into more specific ideas as time goes on. Break down the project into parts; don't try to do it all at once.

**What message would you like to send to other students and mentors who are thinking about becoming involved with ACE?**

It's a win-win situation for both the students and the mentors. I like the idea of going to an engineering firm once a week to work on something that is exciting and gives me a break from school work. The mentors on the other hand get to work with high school students and help the students get a feel for what they do on a daily basis. For both mentors and students, it's a cool program to do something different for one day a week.



Alex Sutherland  
Green Mountain High School



Kathy Lang Crowell, P.E. LEED AP  
Integrated Construction Manager  
Mortenson Construction

## Featured Mentor

**You've been a mentor for 6 years – 2 as a lead mentor at the Denver School of Science and Technology. Why are you involved?**

I am involved with ACE because I have been very fortunate in my life and feel that it is important to give back to the society that has afforded me so many opportunities for success. I strongly believe that career opportunities in the construction industry are an excellent opportunity for these students to make a good living for themselves and their families - and to have an interesting and fulfilling career. ACE is a great way to get the students thinking about career options and to get them excited about their options for the future.

**What is the most rewarding thing about participating in the ACE Mentor Program?**

You don't REALLY know how your involvement with the students affects their lives, but I believe that we are helping them to make smart educational and career choices that will lead them to successful careers. This is great for the students - and great for our industry.

**What advice would you give to the students that participate in the program as they are trying to discover their respective career paths and post high school opportunities?**

Many, many people these days are trying to "find themselves" or to "figure out what they want to be when they grow up". Some people sit in coffee shops and live on minimum wage while they try to figure it out. Some people make and save a lot of money while they are figuring it out. Don't be paralyzed by indecision - pick the best path you can and follow it. Changes in direction along the way are fine, but sitting in one place waiting for the perfect situation to find you is not going to get you anywhere.

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**R**obert **F**ritz  
University of Colorado, Boulder

### Graduate Profile

The ACE Mentor Program helped me in high school by allowing me to see all areas of the building industry which helped me pick the right path to continue in college. It helped me determine what area I wanted to major in along with which school to attend. By working with professionals I was able to talk to them and get their opinions on which schools would be a good choice for me. I decided on the University of Colorado, Boulder and am in my junior year in the Architecture and Planning school. I plan to attend CU Denver for graduate school.

ACE has opened so many doors for me and I would tell students currently involved with ACE to work closely with their mentors. They will help you so much in the long run in school (with classes and putting you ahead of others) and once you get into the real world. ACE students have so many connections to go to for advice, internships and hopefully a career. I look forward to being an ACE mentor.

I think it was important to be a part of ACE because it was more than just an after school program, it helped me further my interest in architecture, along with networking and creating connects for the years to come.

## Important Dates:

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dollars for Scholars Fundraiser and Dinner**

**May 6, 2009**

**Guest Speaker – Mayor John Hickenlooper**

***Student Presentations***

**April 28, 2009**



Thank you to

**Georgia Harmon at Weyerhaeuser**  
for the generous donation of laptops to the program

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Thank you to our 2009 Mentors

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**303 907 1745**

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