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March 1, 2010

Dear Building Industry Professional,

We are writing for your support of the Pittsburgh Affiliate of the ACE Mentor program of America ([www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)). Our program is currently in its second full year of operation and we are looking forward to taking great strides forward as we prepare to celebrate this year's class and look forward to an even better program in 2010/2011.

As you are well aware, the design and construction industries are experiencing a crisis - the shortage of new skilled talent. With fewer students entering secondary architecture, engineering and construction programs, there is an ever increasing shortage of the talent your firm needs to compete on today's highly competitive marketplace.

Since its inception in 1995, ACE has mentored more than 30,000 high school students across the country with more than 90% of continuing on to attend college. Locally we have mentored more than 50 individuals and have already experienced success in leading a number of seniors to related secondary programs.

As a leader in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering industry we are confident that you realize the importance of the mission undertaken by ACE and invite you to become involved.

We are currently in need of support in three primary areas which include Mentors, Host Firms and Financial Contributions.

Along with students, **Mentors** are the basis of the ACE Mentor Program. We need engaging and energetic industry professionals, both new and experienced, who are interested in offering a positive influence on the life of high school students. Information sessions will be held in the coming months to provide an introduction for those who are interested in getting involved and an opportunity to speak with those who are already participating in the program.

**Host Firms** provide a location and refreshments for the mentoring sessions that are conducted over the course of the school year. One of the goals of the program is to expose students to workplaces and job sites in an effort to peak their interest. If your firm is interested in hosting one of our sessions for next year please contact us.

ACE Mentor Program of Pittsburgh

337 Fourth Avenue · Pittsburgh, PA 15222 · 412.261.1570 · [info@acepittsburgh.org](mailto:info@acepittsburgh.org) · [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)

Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering



**Financial Contributions** are used in two primary areas, general program costs and scholarships. One of our objectives is to award as many scholarships as possible to ACE participants who attend secondary education programs which prepare them for careers in the industry. Generous gifts during last year's program enabled us to continue to provide this program at no cost to participants while awarding two scholarships to students on their way to engineering programs after graduation.

We encourage you to participate by becoming a sponsor of the ACE Mentor Program of Pittsburgh. By doing so you will be an active participant in a solution to one of our industry's most critical issues – the shortage of new skilled talent. Attached are two opportunities to show your financial support, an invitation to a benefit luncheon in March as well as a general contribution form. Please consider joining the list of industry leaders who have already played a part in the success of our program.

We look forward to what we hope will be your positive response and thank you for your support at this critical stage for our young program.

Regards,

The ACE Pittsburgh Board of Directors

ACE Mentor Program of Pittsburgh

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Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering



Thank you for your interest and support of The ACE Mentor Program.  
Your contribution will help to ensure the future of our industry.

## ACE Pittsburgh Supporter Levels

Named \$2,500 Scholarship - \$3500

Platinum - \$2500  
Silver - \$1000

Gold - \$1500  
Bronze - \$250

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*ESWP Members can also charge contributions directly to their membership accounts:*

\_\_\_\_\_ **ESWP Member Account Number** \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **ACE Mentor Program of Pittsburgh  
c/o Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania  
337 Fourth Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

The ACE Mentor Program is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and therefore contributions are tax deductible ([www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)).



## ACE PITTSBURGH ENTERS ITS 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR

### An Update on Recent Program Sessions...

This year's ACE Mentor Program began on October 7, 2009. Twenty-one students from Northgate, Quaker Valley, Baldwin Whitehall and Seneca Valley School Districts gathered onsite at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh to walk the land and to hear from local architects and engineers on how they might visualize a project as their first step towards generating plans for a building.

Students were also introduced to the ACE Mentor Program with a description of the intent of the national program, the progress being made within the Pittsburgh Chapter and the current project for the 2009-2010 school year. All students were given an ACE Mentor Program Student Manual for organizing and collecting information from each of the sessions through the year.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> the informational session was repeated for the students at Pittsburgh Public School's Alderdice High School pre-engineering program. These students are very enthusiastic to be a part of the ACE Mentor Program and have been attending pre-engineering courses since middle school.



A Civil Engineering session, hosted by Civil & Environmental Consultants, took place on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Mentors engaged the students in a meaningful design activity appropriate for the location of the project.



David Goldberg, from the Landscape Architecture Department at Chatham University, hosted the ACE students on November 4<sup>th</sup> and put essential aspects of landscaping into perspective the students. This session has been very useful for helping students visualize the project and appreciate the vast amount of resources that are put into a real project.

A visit on November 18<sup>th</sup> to the Carpenters Union on Neville Island offered students the opportunity to hear about the trades. This session was led by Rick Okraszewski and four apprenticeship trainers focused on the basic hands-on carpenter tasks. The students worked in teams to build two-by-four walls and to raise each wall to get an accurate look at the techniques used for joining walls, roof systems and other building systems that are adjacent to each other.



Astorino hosted ACE students on December 2, 2009 for an Architectural session and continued steps toward completion of the project. While giving the students wide latitude for decision making, it was necessary to focus on design that could be completed during this program year. Students gained insight for many tasks taken on by architects in their initial designs while keeping in mind the considerations by engineers for actual construction costs and resources.

A Structural Engineering session, hosted by AECOM Corporation, introduced the students to considerations for structural engineering in building construction. This session took place on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## ACE Career Night



ACE Pittsburgh held a Career Fair on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania. Students and parents from Pittsburgh Public Schools, Quaker Valley High School, South Hills High School, Northgate High School and Alderdice High School were in attendance. Non-ACE students and parents from area high schools also had the opportunity to attend through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Career Dynamics

program.

This is a great opportunity to introduce high school juniors and seniors to regional colleges and universities that have Architectural, Construction and Engineering (ACE) related programs. Additionally construction trade organizations participate to inform students of the various apprentice programs and trade career paths. The intent of the career fair is to make the students and parents aware of the regional educational and career opportunities and encourage them to pursue ACE-related degrees and apprenticeships.

Area universities that participated were the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University, Carnegie Mellon University, and Point Park University. Trade organizations included International Masonry Institute / International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 9 PA, Western PA Operating Engineers Joint Apprenticeship & Training Program Local #66, Greater Pennsylvania Regional Council of Carpenters and Builders Guild of Western PA. Also participating this year was Smart Futures which introduced the opportunity for on-line e-Mentoring,

## This Year's Mentors

Mentors for this year's sessions include representatives from AECOM, Advantus Engineers, Astorino, Chatham University, Civil and Environmental Consultants, FortyEighty Architecture, PJ Dick Incorporated, Peter Margittai Architects, LLC, and Greater PA Regional Council of Carpenters. *For information on how to get involved as a mentor or a host firm please contact us at [info@acepittsburgh.org](mailto:info@acepittsburgh.org).*

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for students will include sessions on MEP Engineering with CJL Engineering, CM/Estimating with P. J. Dick Incorporated, and LEED with Green Building Alliance. Additionally students will have another construction trades hands-on event as well as a project site visit to tour the Pittsburgh Penguins Arena project

### ACE Pittsburgh Board

The following individuals make up ACE Pittsburgh's board of directors:

**Michael Barnard, PE – Chair**  
Oxford Development Company

**Brett Pitcairn – Vice Chair**  
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**Tom Callahan – Treasurer**  
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**Alan Traugott**  
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### ACE Pittsburgh Fundraising

ACE Pittsburgh has five established levels of giving for potential donors:

- **Platinum** (\$2,500+)
- **Gold** (\$1,500 - \$2,499)
- **Silver** (\$500 - \$1,499)
- **Bronze** (\$250 - \$499)

Funds donated by local firms will be used to conduct sessions, provide transportation for students and ultimately provide scholarships for deserving students. For information on how to contribute, please contact a board member or send us an email at [info@acepittsburgh.org](mailto:info@acepittsburgh.org).