

ACE Mentors and Board Members-

It was an exciting 3rd year for the ACE Mentor Program of Oregon! As we end this year I thought it would be worthwhile to reflect on what we accomplished and what we have to look forward to in the coming year.

This year in the Portland Metro area we had 75 students enroll in the program. This is an increase of over 103% over who finished the program last year. In the three years that we have had the program in place here we have had 198 students participate. Our students this year came from 22 area public and private, inner-city and suburban high schools: **Benson, Century, Clackamas, Colton, Gladstone, Grant, Hillsboro, Jefferson, La Salle, Lakeridge, Lincoln, Marshall, OBC Academy, Parkrose, Rex Putnam, Reynolds, Roosevelt, Sam Barlow, Tigard, West Linn, Wilson, and Wilsonville.**

This year we have 45 mentors from 15 local firms: **Group Mackenzie, ZGF, KPFF, Hoffman, Walker Macy, LRS Architects, City of Portland BES, Glumac, GBD Architects, JP Paull Architects, Skanska, Mayer Reed, Nishkian Dean, Parsons Brinckerhoff, and Ankrom Moisan.**

The key to our program's success rests with the enormous contributions that these mentors make to plan the program, recruit the students and flawlessly execute the mentoring sessions with the students.

Our fundraising dinner this year featured Dean Allen, CEO of McKinstry, who gave an inspiring talk about McKinstry's "built to last" philosophy. The event was held on the top floor of the recently completed Machine Works Building in the Pearl District and we had over 160 attendees. We were able to gross over \$45,000 with the event and put \$20,000 towards building the scholarship fund.



Figure 1: Abbey our ACE Student Speaker

Our ACE students showed their stuff at the ACE Student Presentations this year. Like last year the event was held at the World Trade Center Auditorium on May 19th. The room was packed with students, ACE mentors and board members, educators and parents. There were a total 12 of team presentations – a new record. I thought the event went very well and truly illustrated the imagination and inspiration the students received from their mentors. It was also rewarding to speak to some of the parents and hear from them how much they appreciated the opportunity that their kids have had in being involved in the ACE program. We are making a difference.



Figure 2: ACE Mentor Student Reception



Figure 3: ACE Scholarship Recipients

And we were able to hand out a total of \$22,000 in scholarships this year to 8 deserving seniors headed off to college, through the generous contributions from your firms. I am also really thrilled to let everyone know that we recently received an additional grant of \$10,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation from the William K. Blount Family Fund. The scholarship committee is working now on how best to distribute this scholarship money to deserving students. This will bring the total money awarded since our inception to \$72,000.

The Coming Year, 2009/2010

We are beginning to plan for the coming year. We hope that all of the mentors will be back for another rewarding year of stewardship of young enthusiastic students.

We are planning some changes for the coming year. Each year provides us with better insight on what aspects of our program work well, and where we can seek improvements. We have also seen great growth in the program and are looking to be able to support a growing number of students and expand our outreach to the Oregon community. With this in mind here are some of the things we're looking to do.

COMMITTEES.

We are looking to expand involvement in the ACE board committees. We are adding two committees: **Development Committee** headed by Bart Dickson and **Curriculum Committee** head by Michelle Schulz. These two committees will work very closely together. The Development Committee will be looking to expand the reach of the ACE program in the Portland metro area, recruiting additional mentor firms in the east and west sides. The Curriculum Committee will be working on the reformulation of the student groups into a slightly smaller format, one that is more discipline-directed, and the mentor curriculum.

The **Finance Committee** will again be working on fundraising and the spring dinner program. This year we would like to add a fall cocktail event.

The **Scholarship Committee** is looking to create more scholarship opportunities and are planning to incorporate some need-based scholarships in addition to continuing the merit scholarships we have offered in the past.

We are looking for more involvement in the board committees. **If you are a board member, mentor or know someone looking for a way to get involved in helping the ACE Mentor Program have them get in touch with Michelle Anderson or me.** Involvement in the committees is a great way to help shape and improve ACE.

FALL KICK OFF.

Plans are being laid for the ACE Mentor program to begin the 2009/10 year in the fall. We hope that all of the mentors who worked so hard this year will be back again next year. If you know other industry professionals who may be interested in working as an ACE mentor – spread the word. Our program is growing and we can create more opportunities for students by recruiting more mentors to help us.

I want to personally thank all of you for your involvement and support for what we do and the opportunities we are able to provide to these young people and the future of our industry. **It is making a difference.**