



ACE in Atlanta

ACE Atlanta 2009-2010 Program Newsletter # 12 - February 5, 2010



ACE Atlanta thanks **Panola** for their generous Food Sponsorship of the ACE Atlanta 2009-2010 Program!



ACE Atlanta Students - It's all about you!

On Wednesday, January 27, 2010, ACE students had the opportunity to learn how to sharpen their interviewing tools and techniques. Thank you to Theresa Smith, HR Manager with Skanska for her interviewing etiquette basics presentation. The following students signed in for the January 27th ACE class.

- Gabriel A., Lithonia High School
- Branniton B., Lithonia High School
- Ian B., Benjamin Mays High School
- Christopher B., Lithonia High School
- Samuel B., Lithonia High School
- Eddie D., Stephenson High School
- Sherline D., Lithonia High School
- Eddie D., Stephenson High School
- Micah D., Landmark High School
- Malachi D., Landmark High School
- Stephen D., Lithonia High School
- Martin J., Stephenson High School
- Austin L., Stephenson High School
- Marquevious M., Stephenson High School
- Shane M., Benjamin Mays High School
- Olu S., Lithonia High School
- Briana P., Douglass High School
- Marcus P., Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy
- Victor P., Hiram High School
- Darius T., Hiram High School
- Niambi T., Benjamin Mays High School
- Melvin W., Lithonia High School

Students! If you or your team would like additional time to discuss your project with mentors, please let Rachel Hendrix know.

Reminder- Field Trip Permission forms due by February 10th! In order to visit the Westin Peachtree Hotel jobsite, you must turn in your permission form by the Wednesday, Feb 10th ACE class - no exceptions. This is a working jobsite - you must behave properly, safely and comply with all safety rules and directives!

Announcement Section

- Your [WESTIN PEACHTREE HOTEL FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM IS DUE, WEDNESDAY, FEB 10th.](#) The form was distributed on January 27th and will also be attached to this email. Additional copies will be available to students who were absent on Jan 27th. You must turn in your permission form by Wed, February 10th to participate in the field trip.
- [ACE FINAL PRESENTATIONS ARE ON FEBRUARY 24th and MARCH 3rd.](#) Every team received 2 24" x 36" boards to use for the presentation.
- [Reminder - the boards of the winning presentation will be shipped to the National Competition.](#)

Interviewing Tips, Skills and Techniques

Thank you to Theresa Smith, Skanska HR Manager, for leading the Interviewing class. Her PowerPoint Presentation was full of interesting and useful points on how to be at your best during an interview. Tips included the following:

- Interviewing is a two-way street.
- It is ok to be nervous.

- Respect the interviewer and their time.
- Be sure to answer the questions asked of you.
- Do not be afraid of asking a question or two of the interviewer. Look up the company online to prepare a couple of questions beforehand.
- Always thank the interviewer for the time and opportunity.
- DO arrive on time.
- DO offer a firm handshake.
- DO dress appropriately.
- DO make eye contact .
- DO answer questions.
- DO be honest.
- DO keep focused and attentive.
- DON'T wear casual everyday clothing.
- DON'T be late.
- DON'T talk on your cell phone/Text. Turn off your phone before your meeting.
- DON'T keep bluetooth device in ear.
- DON'T chew gum or eat candy.
- DON'T act distracted.
- DON'T be boastful. You only get one chance to make a first impression.
- Interviewing goes both ways.
- Always take the high road – the world is smaller than you realize.



The class also enjoyed the interviewing “pop quizzes” in which we were given a specific scenario and had to determine what the best response would be. We enjoyed listening to students’ reasoning for their choices.

Putting what you’ve learned to use!

Thank you to Theresa Schroeder of Turner Construction and Penny Adams of Skanska for their kind mentoring today. They joined Theresa Smith to serve as mock interviewers during the activity portion of the class. Each student was given the opportunity to have a mock 5-minute interviewer to practice their interviewing skills. Remember, like any skill, the more you practice, the better you’ll be.

Each student will receive some feedback at the next ACE class.

RFP Reviews

While students were waiting for their interview time, they met in their student teams to work through any questions they had regarding the final project with mentors. Each team had the full RFP as well as the CIRT-ACE National Competition and were able to ask any technical or procedural questions. This exercise is similar to what a construction manager or subcontractor would do after receiving an RFP from a developer/client.

Students - remember the following tips from the Design Critique session:

- PowerPoint presentations allow everyone in the room to see your work. If you have drawings on paper, only the panel can see what work your team has done.
- Use your last name when introducing yourself - be proud of your last name!
- Tell us “How”, “Where” and “Why”.
- Project budget details are important. Tell us why the building is priced as you have it.
- Project your voice! If you speak too softly, not everyone can hear you.
- Talk about how your project impacts the community.
- Place your project in a physical environment. Remember Oscar’s statement that you are not designing a spaceship floating in space. Root your project in its environment.



Questions about the Final Presentations

Students will be presenting their Final Presentations on February 24th and March 3rd. In order to be fair to all teams, all teams must be ready to present on February 24th. The order will be drawn at random.

Each team will be given the same amount of time for their presentation and panel questions. The amount of time will be based on how many teams have decided to present. **Remember, to be a successful ACE student, you must be an active part of a Final Presentation!** The following seven (7) student teams have been formed:



Team Name	Team Members	Project Choice
To be determined	Jarius A.	The Ideal School
Evolve Beyond Boundaries (EBB)	Victor P. and Darius T.	The Ideal School
To be determined	Melvin W., Killian O., Sherline D., Christopher B., and Samuel B.	The Ideal School
To be determined	Branniton B., Stephen D., Gabriel A., and Gary T.	The Ideal School
To be determined	Andrew H. Niambi T., Ian B., Shane M. and Marcus P.	Green Housing Row
U.E.A. (Universal Engineer Associates)	Eddie D., Martin J., Marquevius M., and Austin L.	The Ideal School
To be determined	Cornelius G., Kamau O., Briana P., Gerald D., Micah D., and Malachi D.	To be determined

Thank you to our Session Mentors!

ACE Atlanta would like to thank the following mentors and guests for their enthusiastic participation!

- Don Casey, Skanska
- Elijah Cannon, Lithonia High School
- Rachel Hendrix, Skanska
- Linda McCoy, IBG Construction Services LLC
- Penny Adams, Skanska
- Amy Norman, Holder Construction
- Terrance Ward, New South Construction
- Drew Gaskins, Gilbane
- Theresa Smith, Skanska
- Theresa Schroeder, Turner Construction
- Debra Collins

