



FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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**Greater Washington ACE Mentor Program
Awards 13 Scholarships to Local High School Students**

**Second Largest Employment Industry in the U.S. Sponsors Program That Addresses
Growing Need for Talented Professionals**

Washington, DC, June 17, 2008 – The Washington, DC affiliate of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program held its annual scholarship breakfast recently to recognize the achievements of local high school students who have participated in the organization’s mentoring activities and to award 13 scholarships totaling \$50,000 to local high school students.

The ACE Mentor Program was created to address the growing need for skilled professionals in the architecture, construction and engineering industries - a shortage that could become a crisis if current trends continue. The Greater Washington ACE Mentor Program is part of a nationwide program of outreach and mentoring for students in 106 markets across the country where ACE has a presence. The mentors are professionals from leading design and construction firms who volunteer their time and energy to engage, inform, and challenge youth.

“The construction industry is the second-largest employer in the U.S. With 50 percent of all buildings that will exist by the year 2030 not even built yet, it is a growing industry. However, current statistics project that the need for qualified, skilled individuals working in the field will far exceed the supply, with over 1 million job openings by 2012,” said Dr. Charles H. Thornton, Founder and Chairman of ACE. “This is a crisis that we cannot afford – the growth of our country depends on finding solutions. These national and local initiatives will help to begin the careers of a new generation of talented professionals and marks an historic opportunity for us to make a difference and continue the growth of an industry that is so important.”

Over 250 supporters, sponsors and guests attended the Eighth Annual Scholarship Breakfast of the Greater Washington ACE Mentoring Program. The venue was the original historic lobby, now beautifully restored, at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, a major sponsor of the ACE program.

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Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering

“This year more than 140 students from 14 high schools in the Washington area are enrolled in the program,” noted Greg Hunt, Chairman of the Washington ACE Mentor Program Scholarship Committee. “Not only are these students experiencing unmatched exposure to the A/E/C industry, but ACE scholarships, funded by more than 20 local firms, rewards many of them for their hard work.”

The 13 scholarship students, from high schools in the District as well as Montgomery, Prince Georges, Arlington and Fairfax Counties, were presented with checks at the breakfast. The students included: Anthony Cerda, Oscar Duran, Louis Ngonzo-Blyo, Lachance Ngonzo-Blyo, and Marlon Ulloa from Bell Multicultural High School; Matthew Chamberlin, G.C. Marshall High School; Shawn Faull, W.T. Woodson High School; Christina Fox, Booker T. Washington High School; Amanda Godfrey, Hayfield High School; Andrew Kim, Wheaton High School; Ernesto Luna-Castro, Crossland High School; Joseph O’Connor, Centreville High School; and Derron Murphy, Dunbar High School. Corporate sponsors included Turner Construction, MWAA, SOM, Sumitomo, Lane Construction, Eagle Construction, McDonnough Boyland Peck, Eagle Construction, Skanska, Shapiro Lifshultz, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Clark, Atlantic Contracting, Belstar, Facchina, Bovis, WDG, Parsons, Tetra Tech and the Washington AIA Foundation.

About the ACE Mentor Program

The ACE Mentor Program is the fastest-growing high school mentoring program focusing on careers in the design/build industry. It was founded by the principals of leading design and construction firms, to introduce high school students to career opportunities in the industry. The mission of the organization is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in the design/build construction industry through mentoring; and to support their continued advancement in the industry through scholarships and grants. ACE makes a special attempt to reach students that otherwise may not become aware of the challenges and rewards of a career in the design and construction industry. For additional information please visit www.acementor.org.

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