



FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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**DES MOINES ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS**

-- Second Largest Employment Industry In The U.S. Sponsors Program That
Addresses Growing Need For Talented Professionals --

Des Moines, IA, April 22, 2008 - The Des Moines, Iowa affiliate of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program recently held an awards banquet to celebrate the achievements of local high school students who have participated in the organization's mentoring activities.

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 Des Moines ACE initiative 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."

The Des Moines Awards Banquet recognized the efforts of 29 mentors from area companies as well as the 28 students who participated in the program. In addition to being exposed to the AEC industry through presentations and onsite visits, the students were assigned a project to complete; they formed groups to design, engineer and

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ACE Mentor Program of America

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Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering

prepare construction planning services for a city-owned community center that would be used by the local community for official and social functions. Each design had to meet a specific set of criteria for the facility itself and the site.

“The student groups were divided into teams for the architectural, engineering (civil, structural, mechanical/electrical), and construction services,” explained Monica Worheide, Master Builders of Iowa. “The final presentations were excellent, reflecting the considerable understanding the students had gained on what designing and constructing a facility entails.”

The Awards Banquet also featured the presentation of college scholarships that were sponsored by local companies. Seven local students received a total of \$12,000 in scholarships courtesy of the Des Moines Construction Breakfast Club, McAninch/Neumann, ACE Founders Board, Luke Altmix Simmons, Russell Construction, Larson & Larson and MBI. The students included Ryan Smith (Roosevelt); Adam Bourland, Joseph Ghormley, Alex Buscher (Hoover); Colin Judd, Joshua Thede (Urbandale); and Robert Huddleson (Lincoln).

About the ACE Mentor Program

The ACE Mentor Program 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 twofold: to enlighten and motivate students toward architecture, construction, engineering, and related careers; and to provide mentoring opportunities for future designers and constructors. 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 see www.acementor.org.

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