



FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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## **ACE MENTOR PROGRAM HOSTS END-OF-YEAR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

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

**Philadelphia, PA, June 2, 2008** – The Eastern Pennsylvania affiliate of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program recently hosted its annual end-of-year student presentations and scholarship awards event at the School District of Philadelphia’s administration building. During the event six student teams presented design projects to an audience of mentors, parents and school representatives and 20 students were presented with college scholarships totaling nearly \$32,000.

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 ACE Mentor Program of Eastern Pennsylvania 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.”

(more)

**ACE Mentor Program of America**

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Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering

This year more than 160 students from 20 Philadelphia-area high schools participated in the program with 68 volunteer mentors representing some of the region's leading architectural, construction and engineering firms. Assigned to teams with the mentors, students learned about the building industry and worked on a design project. Given a choice of three projects, all six teams selected the option that called for the students to envision a technology high school constructed at the site of the Comcast Center tower.

"We are extremely pleased to see the tremendous growth in the ACE Mentor program in the Philadelphia area," noted Carla Kantner, Executive Director of the ACE Mentor Program of Eastern Pennsylvania. "Not only are these students experiencing unmatched exposure to the A/E/C industry, but ACE scholarships, funded by more than 50 local firms, rewards many of them for their hard work."

Amir Potts, a senior at University City High School, received the \$5,000 J.J. White, Inc., Scholarship, the program's top award funded by the contracting company. Fellow University City senior Jonathan Holloway and Sierra Mills-Newton, a student at the Charter High School for Architecture + Design, each received \$3,500 scholarships. Scholarships of \$1,000 and \$1,500 were also awarded.

In addition to J. J. White, Inc., corporate sponsors included Hill International, AKF Engineers, Brandywine Realty Trust, L.F. Driscoll Co., O'Donnell & Naccarato, Inc., and Thornton Tomasetti.

#### **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 see [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org).

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