



FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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**LOS ANGELES ACE MENTOR PROGRAM AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS
AND CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS**

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

LOS ANGELES, CA, July 8, 2008 - The Los Angeles affiliate of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program held its sixth annual scholarships and awards breakfast recently at the South Lobby of the Los Angeles Convention Center. The breakfast, which attracted 700 attendees, awarded scholarships and celebrated 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 Los Angeles 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."

Since its founding in early 2002, the Los Angeles chapter has grown to encompass 350 students and 90 mentors annually. Over the past five years, the organization has offered 184 scholarships of at least \$1,000 per year to students active in the program who demonstrate progress in post-high school studies in ACE disciplines. At this year's

ACE Mentor Program of America

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Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering

awards banquet, four ACE “Success Stories” were presented, honoring ACE Mentor program scholarship students who have graduated from college or are now nearing graduation. They include:

- Ricardo Zendejas – a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles, he graduated from UCLA in June with a B.S. degree in civil/structural engineering.
- Gina Escalante – a graduate of John Marshall High School in Los Angeles, she graduated in June from the University of California Davis with a B.S. degree in urban planning.
- Thai Nguyen – a graduate of John Marshall High School, he expects to graduate in August from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a B.S. degree in construction management.
- Manuel Herrera – a graduate of Roosevelt High School, he expects to graduate in April 2009 from the University of Michigan with a B.S. degree in architecture.

“It is a thrill to be recognizing four ACE Mentor students as they graduate from prestigious colleges with technical degrees in architecture, engineering and construction disciplines,” commented Terry Dooley, Secretary of the ACE Mentor Los Angeles Board of Directors. “These four ‘Success Stories’ are indeed what the ACE Mentor program is all about and it is heartwarming to have played a role in helping them to achieve their goals.”

Two national scholarships were given out in the Los Angeles metro area. Jorge Vargas of John Marshall High School, Los Angeles was the winner of a Clark Construction Group scholarship. Miguel Arciniega of Cathedral City High School, received a Turner Construction scholarship. Each of the scholarships are for \$4,000, payable over four years.

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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