



FOR: THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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ACE COOLIDGE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM AND ASLA COMPLETE PHASE II OF THE 2010 LEGACY PROJECT

(Washington, D.C.) The ACE Coolidge High School Team and the American Society of Landscape Architects' (ASLA) Potomac Chapter, in conjunction with community partners and the Coolidge Alumni Association, have just completed Phase II construction of the 2010 Legacy Project – a community park that will serve as a living lab for lessons in landscape architecture, project management, teamwork and horticulture.

Over one hundred volunteers came out on Saturday, November 6th and 13th to help plant, mulch, clean and beautiful the front acres of Coolidge High School. Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser came out to lend her support, giving the morning's keynote speech. Other community supporters include the General Services Administration, District Department of the Environment, Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), the Fenty Administration and several architecture, engineering and construction industry partners.

Each year, the ASLA partners with the ACE affiliate in the host city of their Annual Meeting to create a Legacy Project – a community driven initiative to put to use the generous donations of ASLA Conference exhibitors' donations. This year's Legacy Project chair was Ms. Elizabeth Miller, ASLA, a senior urban planner/designer with NCP's Physical Planning Division. The final phase of the project will take place in Spring 2011.

The project began from previous years' efforts to rehabilitate the school's greenhouse – a gift from the Class of 1945. The community park complements the Coolidge greenhouse renovation initiative. Due to lack of maintenance and use, the decades-old greenhouse is in desperate need of rehabilitation. The ACE Coolidge Team, along with the school's Alumni association and other key stakeholders, not only plans to restore this historical keepsake, but also to create the first LEED certified school greenhouse in the area. Currently, the greenhouse renovation is slated to take place during the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization's overall school modernization in 2015.

Key features of the project include both a rain garden and wetland as well as bountiful vegetable gardens and tree canopy. The ACE Coolidge Team envisions that, "...as the 'Coolidge Green Team', we can set an example for other schools as to the importance of studying sciences such as horticulture, astronomy, meteorology, etc., and how they can apply to today. Being the only LEED certified greenhouse at a school other than Portland University will be something the students at Coolidge can be proud of!"

About the ACE Mentor Program – DC/MD/VA

ACE is an acronym for architecture, construction, and engineering. It is a unique partnership among industry professionals, college and university representatives and professional organizations throughout the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area. The ACE Mentor Program of DC/MD/VA is an award-winning, nonprofit organization whose mission is to enlighten and increase the awareness of high school students to career opportunities in architecture, construction and engineering – as well as other related areas of the design and construction industry – through mentoring and scholarship awards. The program makes a special attempt to reach students of all demographics; and those currently underrepresented in the industry. For more information, visit: www.acemmentor.org/592

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