



GREATER METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AREA AFFILIATE
Career directions for students in architecture, construction and engineering

www.acementor.org

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Letter from the President

Our ninth mentoring program is underway. We have mobilized new teams at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Prince Georges County, Coolidge Senior High School in the District of Columbia, and Hayfield Secondary and Robert E. Lee High School in Fairfax County. Several other possibilities may happen as well.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Ranine Talbert has been appointed as our Executive Director and is already doing a fabulous job, as we have a lot of challenges, but also opportunities, for the 2008-2009 school year.

Student interest and participation is already at an all-time high. Our critical items include recruiting more mentors to serve on our existing teams and start up new teams. Funding and sponsoring our activities is also a major challenge, especially given the current economic situation, but the ACE program is an investment for the future participants of the entire construction industry so we appeal to all of you to participate.

Please contact me at (703) 742-5701 or via e-mail at Reseigh@pbworld.com, or Ranine Talbert at (202) 904-8894 or via e-mail at washingtondc@acementor.org, if you are interested in participating in any way - from mentoring to sponsoring and supporting.

Take a look at our website - www.acementor.org - and enjoy the contents of this newsletter. Don't hesitate to pass it on to others you think maybe interested as well.

Thank you for all your support, seasons greetings and best wishes for 2009!

In This Issue:



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Reseigh'.

Chris Reseigh, P.E.
President, Washington ACE Affiliate

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Lead Mentor Team Reports

Bell Multicultural High School

The students of Bell Multicultural High School attended their third session of the ACE Mentor Program at the Arlington office of AECOM Design. The visit began with presentations by Ed Weaver, Director of Architecture, and Kim Schiffgens, Office Manager, who gave an overview of the vast opportunities available in the A/E/C industry.

The students were then led on an office tour by Suzan Riazi, Marketing Coordinator; Julie Davis, Structural Engineer; and Dan Noonan, Architect. Gunnar Lucko, Lead Mentor, played the role of a curious student, asking questions while guest speakers Ryan Dougherty, Architect, and Tom Donaghy, Architect, described ongoing projects and the life of an architect. The office visit concluded with pizza and drinks for everyone.



Coolidge Senior High School



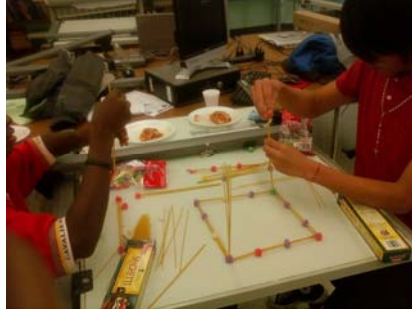
This Fall, the Coolidge Senior High School ACE team has been very active with 10-15 students participating on a weekly basis and two lead teachers, Mr. Herald Williams and Mrs. Sivinesan. In order to learn the different aspects of the building industry, the students have learned to draw in section, elevation and plan views; to construct a table and come up with different designs/functions; and to build a bridge from an aesthetic and structural perspective.

The teams for the bridge project were given prizes for appearance and structural integrity. Since the students' interests vary from architecture to computer engineering to civil engineering; each session has been geared to meet the interests of all the students collectively. Our recent session included a brief on LEED and what decisions to make in certifying a building for LEED. Thanks to Elizabeth Conway, the team looked at the many ways of constructing a gingerbread house and getting it LEED certified. One student Jose Delgado won the prize for getting enough points to get his gingerbread house LEED certified. Each week, the students and mentors as a whole bring a synergy to the ACE Coolidge team, which makes the sessions engaging, challenging, and fun!



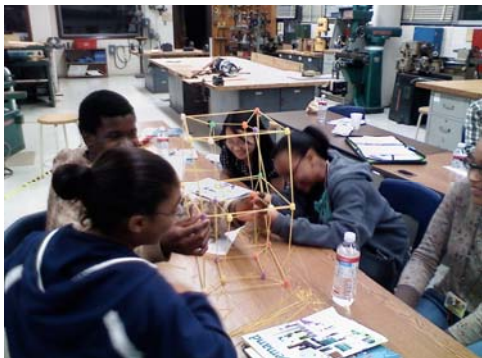
Crossland Senior High School

The Crossland High School is off to a great start! With the help of the great Architectural Drafting teacher Mr. Ronald Fasso, we can foresee a good year ahead of us. The students partook in various activities which included the spaghetti and gumdrop activity. Take a look at the world's first chewed construction joint!



Eleanor Roosevelt High School

The students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School are enthusiastic and looking forward to participating in the ACE Mentoring Program for the first time at their school this year. There is obvious strong support from the school through the Principal (Mr. Reginald McNeil), Assistant Principal (Mr. Benjamin Pryor) and the parents. There are 22 students with varied interests in pursuing their professional careers. The interests run the gamut across the industry from Architecture, Interior Design to Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering to Construction Management, Mechanical Engineering and Architectural Engineering.



During our first session, the students were divided into four teams to do the Spaghetti & Gumdrop Building Exercise. The exercise is used to learn the basic structural design concepts and apply them to the construction of a structure. The structures must be stable and designed to carry a small load or sustain a simulated seismic event. The students have talked about the final project and are focusing on a "Land/Real Estate Development" component-themed project.

Wheaton High School

Wheaton has had a successful start to our 5th year with the ACE program. With attendance up to 20 students at some sessions (every other Monday), we began the year with a dining room design exercise. Students were challenged to think through how the dining room would be used by a family of 5, six including the dog. They factored in several criteria into their design solutions for furniture and interiors such as, the family's entertainment schedule, evening activities, sun angles, access to the kitchen, matching the style of the existing house, size of table and provisions for flexibility. Presentations to the class will occur at the next session.

Our third meeting began discussing potential ideas for the Capstone Project, with the students brainstorming their potential projects. Ideas ranged from moon colonies and amusement parks to more grounded projects such as office buildings. Time will tell which project the students decide to go with this year.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jose Delgado is an 18 year-old senior at Coolidge Senior High School. His interest in Architecture began as a child when he was excited to build different things out of legos. He heard about ACE through a teacher stating that it would be good for his career. His goal is to go to undergrad school for Architecture and likely go to a school in Arizona to pursue his Masters in computer or mechanical engineering.

His hobbies include music, computers and X-box. Jose was chosen by both the mentors and teachers from this ACE team because he thinks "out of the box" for most of the projects he comes across. He is well informed about LEED and other aspects of Architecture, which sets him apart. Jose's spirit and enthusiasm is also a great asset to the team because he is always motivated to be presented with a challenge.



ACE STUDENTS TESTIFY BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

On October 10, 2008, **Evan Holly** and **Marc Keegan Murphy** provided testimony to City Council on DC Schools Master Facilities Plan. See testimony below:

"Hello Mr. Chairman and members of the Council and thank you for this opportunity. My name is Evan Holly. I am an 11th grade student from Woodrow Wilson High School, and I've attended DC public schools my whole life. Before Wilson High School, I attended the SED Center, Oyster Bilingual Elementary and Hardy Middle School. I am here today as a person who has had a life-long interest in architecture and engineering and who strongly believes that my school, Woodrow Wilson High, with an exciting architectural design in hand, is ready for a complete modernization. Students, faculty staff and neighbors have contributed to this architectural plan and are ready to move forward.

Good morning. I would like to thank Chairman Gray and the City Council for allowing my friend and I to come here today and speak on behalf of the students of Woodrow Wilson High. My name is Marc Murphy, I am a junior at Wilson, and I aspire to one day have a career in engineering. I have lived in Washington, DC all of my life and have attended St. Peters Interparish School, Hyde Elementary, and Hardy Middle School. Wilson is the

greatest school I have ever been to and I have seen it become better and better each year. There have been tiny physical improvements to the school, year after year, but they have not helped us to achieve our goal of being DC's and America's model urban high school. The students and faculty want a modern and environmentally friendly school, and we are tired of having to wait each year for it to come. Right now is the time for Wilson to receive the money it needs to do this project.

Wilson High School is a school with a very diverse student body with many special needs. There are students who are blind, deaf, with physical disabilities and mental challenges. To meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) we need ramps and elevators and things of that nature. Wilson's current design does not meet these requirements. As a matter of fact, Wilson's classrooms, cafeteria, gym, auditorium and pool are housed on eleven different levels. Easy access is impossible. The design of the new Wilson campus, with a wide, welcoming Main Street with no stairs, will solve this challenge as

part of an engineering class, and we and the rest of the class have reviewed the construction plans of a new Wilson. It has things like a performing arts center, 9th grade wing, public parking, a public cafeteria, and meeting space, a completely new library and media center, state of the art classrooms, and even the thing I am most excited about, a new robotics and mechanical engineering lab located in the old power plant. Bottom line is it would be a real big disappointment to the entire Wilson community for this dream to be terminated.

In our engineering class, we have been studying the renovation plans for the school. Not only do we want a better school and thus a better educational environment, we want to help our environment by reducing our carbon footprint. In this day when the world is in an environmental and climate crisis, we at Wilson want to do our part to help the world by using new green technologies to decrease our impact on the earth. Not only will the money we are asking for benefit future students of Wilson, it will allow us to lead an effort to make our building have less of an impact on the Earth by reducing our carbon footprint.

A number of us students are currently studying the details of achieving LEED certification for a

modernized Wilson. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is a set of environmental building standards created by the US Green Building Council. We must take into account the sustainability of the site, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation and design.

Most schools are encouraged to strive for Silver LEED Certification but we want to go for the Gold by earning the necessary rating of 44 points. We will consider lots of options including support for alternative transportation, ports for electric cars, bicycles, green roofs, solar panels, capturing of ground water and innovations in lighting, heat and clean air and the recycling and reuse of materials. You even get points if designing the building is used as a teaching tool. Evan and I agree that we have already scored those points. I would like to thank you all, and I hope that the city will help a great school achieve its goal of becoming the country's model urban high school in a model school system.

Thanks again for your time and attention to our message and I was proud to hear there are other Wilson Tigers in this room and on the City Council."

ACE Mentor Team Status Report ...

TEAM	STUDENTS	LEAD MENTOR	COMMENTS
Arlington Career Center	TBD	Steve Nicklas	Did not mobilize yet
Anacostia SHS	TBD	TBD	Pending
Bell Multicultural High School	20-25	Gunnar Lucko	Very active
Booker T. Washington	8-12	Winston Wright	Low participation
Cardozo SHS	TBD	John Mullin	Did not mobilize yet
Coolidge	10-15	Julee Thomas	Great start
Phelps HS	0	TBD	Pending
Woodrow Wilson	6-10	Chris McCune	Very active
Chantilly	8-10	TBD	January start
Hayfield High School	20-24	Lakshmi Nalluri	Very successful
Marshall High School	8-10	Mark McKenna	Active
Robert E. Lee High School	15	Chris Reseigh	Great start
W. T. Woodson High School	20-25	Ryan Seymore	Very successful
Watkins Mill High School	TBD	Joe Cuti	Intermittent
Wheaton	15-20	Chris Hillegas	Very active
Crossland High School	6-8	Tonia Taylor	Great start
Eleanor Roosevelt High School	20-24	SL Hopkins	Very successful
Suitland High School	6	Nadiya Vass	Active

SPOTLIGHT ON MENTORS – Join the Fun!



Tonia Taylor is the lead mentor at Crossland High School in Temple Hills, MD. She was born in raised in Brooklyn, NY and has been living in the DC area for the past eight years. Five of those years include her matriculation through Howard University in Washington, DC, where she received a Bachelor in Architecture.

Tonia currently works with Tompkins Builders as a Project Engineer on the Saint Elizabeth's project. This project consists of a \$150 million newly constructed hospital for the Saint Elizabeth's campus. This is her third year mentoring with ACE.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Lou Couture of URS has more than 35 years of experience in providing Professional Construction Management services for public and private sector clients including Federal office buildings, courthouses, high-tech facilities, military installations, K-12 school programs, historical restoration projects, public transportation projects and parking structures.

He has expertise in project/program management, time, cost, quality and claims management. He is past President of the CMAA National Capital Chapter, and is a charter member of the Construction Manager Certification Institute (CMCI) Faculty. He teaches classes in Construction Management and is currently serving on the Board of Governors of the CMAA Construction. Manager Certification Institute, and the National Capitol Chapter ACE Mentoring Program Board of Directors.



Scott Kratz is currently the Vice President for Education at the National Building Museum, leading the Public Programs and Youth Education departments that conceive, organize, present, and evaluate high-caliber, high-profile educational programs for families, adults and school children. These programmatic efforts explore the building arts and serve approximately 65,000 visitors annually. Kratz began his career in museums fifteen years ago teaching at Kidspace, a children's museum in Pasadena, California.

In addition to serving on the Washington DC ACE Mentor Program Board, he has been active in several museum education boards including the Museum Educators of Southern California. He is currently Vice-Chair for Issues on the board of the American Association of Museum's Education Committee. He has served a committee member on American Planning Association's Growing Tomorrow's Planners Task Force and a board member of Native Voices at the Autry, a theater company based in Los Angeles, CA.

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**Be Sure To Mark
Your Calendars
for These Events:**

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

ACE Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

9th Annual ACE Scholarship Breakfast

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

9th Annual Project Presentation Night

For more information, please contact:

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Editor's Note:

*This newsletter is published for the
members and sponsors of the ACE Mentor
Program to keep you informed on the
growth of our young engineers and
architects.*