

LEO A DALY Denver finds success in ACE mentor program

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(DENVER, Colo. – June 7, 2010) The Denver office of LEO A DALY, an international architecture, planning, engineering, interior design and program management firm, recently enjoyed the success of their mentored students' efforts through its involvement with ACE Mentor Program of Colorado. ACE is a national all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization that encourages professionals in the fields of architecture, construction, and engineering to donate their time to teach high school students about career opportunities in their industry. LEO A DALY is one of 41 Denver-area A/E firms participating in the program.

As first-time mentors, Rick Kress and Carolyn Woods of LEO A DALY, along with seven other Denver-area industry professionals, assisted students at Green Mountain High School. Two students were awarded a \$3,000 national scholarship after a winning presentation at the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) conference for their "Ideal School" project. At the culminating Dollars for Scholars fundraising event May 12 in Denver, high school seniors were granted scholarships ranging between \$3,600 and \$11,000.

"This year was particularly exciting," Rick Kress, architect for LEO A DALY said. "This is the first time any team from Colorado had entered the national competition, and to come in first place is amazing. The kids were flown to Washington, D.C. and, after presenting their project in front of CEOs from major construction firms, they met with our local representatives on Capitol Hill. It was quite an adventure for them."

Mentors meet with students each week from January through April after school. Meetings include visits to mentors' offices, hands-on design, construction activities, and visits to local construction sites. Each mentor team reflects a project team of owners, architects, engineers, contractors and sub-contractors. The students are assigned to a theoretical project and the mentors guide them through the design, cost-estimating, and scheduling process just as they would a real-world project.

At the end of the program each spring, the students present their projects to an audience that includes school administrators, teachers, ACE Board Members, mentors, student peers, and families in a digital presentation format accompanied by a display of drawings, models, schedules and other work they have generated during the program.

"The experience was quite rewarding and it was great to see what can be accomplished by the young people in our community," Carolyn Woods, architect-in-training for LEO A DALY said.

"ACE is a worthy organization that introduces kids from all walks of life to our different professions and gives them an opportunity to explore architecture, engineering, or construction as a potential career

path. I would like to see more companies and individuals in the professional building community volunteer their time or become a sponsor.”

ACE currently works with ten Denver-schools and has awarded scholarships totaling over \$300,000 in only six years. Both Kress and Woods intend to participate again next year as the program continues to expand throughout the city.