



**ACE MENTOR LOS ANGELES
METROPOLITAN AREA, INC.**

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**TO THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS IN THE ACE MENTOR
PROGRAM IN THE LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN AREA:**

The ACE Mentor Program has been active in the United States since 1994 and in the Los Angeles Metro Area since 2002. We introduce high school students to possible careers in Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) and related fields. Approximately 90 professional firms and individuals, some very prominent in their fields, support the program with personal effort and financial resources. See our Board of Directors on the left side of this sheet. All are volunteers.

We create teams of about two dozen high school students. Most teams are at a single high school. A few include two or more schools. They meet after school, usually every two weeks, either at the school or at business offices and construction sites. Professionals introduce the students to what they do, and show the educational routes that might be followed to get there. They show the way toward college-level work, and also show the possibilities in the skilled building trades, where apprenticeship is the usual route.

After some introductory meetings, the students are introduced to a real-life design problem. They work together and with their mentors on a project, often for their own neighborhood or at their own school site. They design and budget a needed facility. The work of all teams is displayed at an awards reception or dinner in the spring.

Also during the year, teams are invited to an "All Schools Day" competition on a Saturday morning. They design and build simple structures with economical materials (popsicle sticks, uncooked pasta, cardboard, glue). These structures are tested on the spot and prizes are awarded. On another Saturday morning, they might visit an apprentice training school for one of the skilled building trades. Parents are invited to these events, and are welcome at any meeting. All mentors working regularly with the students must pass personal background checks. There is no charge to the students for this program.

If you have questions, you might:

- See our national website www.ACEmentor.org
- Los Angeles pages can be reached directly at www.ACEmentor.org/579
- Talk with the ACE faculty advisor or mentor team leader at your school.
- Call or write to me. See contact information on this letterhead.

Sincerely,

C. Terry Dooley, Secretary
Board of Directors, ACE Mentor Program
Los Angeles, Metro Area