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NEW FAU STADIUM OPENS ITS DOORS TO LOCAL CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS FOR ONCE IN A LIFETIME EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Students of Architecture, Construction, and Engineering to Learn First Hand from the New FAU Stadium

Boca Raton, Fla. – On April 9th 2011 Florida Atlantic University, together with Balfour Beatty/James A Cummings, Joint Venture, will host a once in a lifetime educational tour for inner city students of the ACE (*Architecture, Construction, and Engineering*) Mentor program. The high school students will listen to innovative construction presentations and embark on a full site tour with the highest skilled construction staff in the industry. **Media is invited to join the students during the trailer presentation from 9:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. and interview students as well as construction team on site.**

“We are proud to participate in the *ACE Mentor Program*,” said Tom Donaudy, University Architect. “We know this will be a learning experience for the local students in the program and hope it inspires them in their future careers.”

The 40 participating students attend South Florida high schools including; Plantation High School, Atlantic VoTech, Atlantic High School, Northeast High and Miami Carol City High School.

The new FAU stadium is the centerpiece of FAU's Innovation Village, located in the north central area of campus. A \$70 million project, it is slated to feature 6,000 premium seats, including 24 suites, 26 loge boxes, 1,000 premier club seats and 4,000 priority club seats, and the latest, state-of-the art amenities. The 2011 football season will host five home games to be played for the first time on FAU's Boca Raton campus. The home season opener is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 15.

The ACE Mentor Program's mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in the integrated construction industry through mentoring; and to support their continued advancement in the industry through scholarships and grants. ACE is a unique partnership among industry professionals — architects, interior designers, landscape architects, mechanical, structural, electrical, environmental and civil engineers, construction managers, college and university representatives, and other professionals from related corporations and professional organizations — who work together to attract young people to their professions. Industry professionals volunteer to become mentors to high school students in order to introduce them to the professions and encourage them to pursue studies and careers in these fields. In return, the industry gets a much-needed boost of new talent.