



# NEWS

## **ACE Frederick Affiliate Wins ACE National Design Competition**

Frederick, MD, Apr. 22, 2008—The Frederick, Maryland Affiliate of the ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) Mentor Program was recently named champion of a national design competition.

The Frederick Affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program is made up of more than 50 Frederick area high school students who engage in a 15-week program where students get hands-on experience working alongside industry professionals on projects. Commenced in 2005, the Frederick Affiliate consists of a unique partnership of local industry specialists, professional organizations, and educational institutions who work together to attract young people to the architecture, engineering, and construction professions.

The Frederick team won its national title at the CIRT-ACE national design competition on April 21 in Washington, DC. The championship team received a \$3,000 scholarship contribution toward the Frederick Affiliate.

The project submitted by the Frederick team, *Re-Routing Transportation*, focuses on the growing concern of traffic along I-270 in Maryland. The team addressed the problem by designing an aero-rail train system from Frederick to the Shady Grove Metro Station in Rockville. In Frederick, the team planned a multi-modal building that is a destination center for the community and many types of transportation. The goal of the project was to relieve congestion and commuter traffic along the 1-270 corridor.

The Frederick team consisted of nine second-year Frederick area high school students: Melissa Huston, Rachael Martinez, Rosemary Masser, Mark Mifsud, Christina Nguyen, Nixy Osorio, Nolian Papa, Stephen Thai, and Asaph Yeh. ACE mentors Bryan Burke, Michelle Buchek, Marc DeCampo, Steve Ritz, and Kristen Parsley have dedicated their efforts to helping the team achieve this honor.

"ACE has given me a positive experience that encouraged me to pursue a career in architecture, construction or engineering," says Melissa Huston, a senior at Linganore High School. Melissa is planning on studying civil engineering at Penn State.

"Working with these young people has been a great experience for me," says Bryan Burke, the team's lead mentor and professional engineer with Loiederman Soltesz Associates. "When they enter the workforce in a few years, they will be bringing power and energy and employers will need to engage them in a meaningful way."

Initiated, coordinated, and judged by the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), the CIRT-ACE national design competition received ten entries from ACE Affiliates across the country. After the preliminary competition, three national finalists were selected to participate in the final competition at CIRT's spring conference.

The Frederick Affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program is sponsored by Bechtel Corporation, Frederick Bechtel Women's Group, FCPS Career and Technology Center, University of Maryland, Loiederman Soltesz Associates, Inc., Trimble Navigation, and Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation.

**ABOUT ACE MENTOR PROGRAM**

Started in 1991 with one team in New York City, the ACE Mentor Program has expanded to over 100 teams across the continental United States and Hawaii. ACE is an after-school program for high school students interested in learning about careers in architecture, construction, and engineering. The Frederick Affiliate was started in 2005 with 36 students; now with over 50 students the program continues to grow. Prior to winning the CIRT-ACE national design competition championship, the Frederick Affiliate received the Emerging Affiliate of the Year Award from the national ACE Mentor Program for 2006-2007.

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Send Picture separately to media:

**National Awarding Winning ACE Design Team**

L to R: Michelle Buchek, Rosemary Masser, Stephen Thai, Bryan Burke, Asaph Yeh, Melissa Huston, Nolian Papa, Nixy Osorio, Mark Mifsud, Christina Nguyen, and Marc DeCampo.

