ACE National

The ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. (ACE) helps mentor high school students and inspires them to pursue careers in design and construction. It’s now the construction industry’s fastest-growing high school mentoring program, reaching over 8,000 students annually. Our mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry. ACE not only engages sponsors and volunteer mentors to expose students to real-world opportunities, it financially supports each student’s continued success through scholarships and grants. Since inception, ACE has awarded over $14 million in scholarships to promising participants.

Cleveland Chapter

Since its inception in 2008, the Cleveland affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program has partnered with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and now features seven teams totaling nearly 150 students at the John Hay School of Architecture and Design, James F. Rhodes High School, New Tech East, New Tech West, Max Hayes High School and Collinwood. More than 70 local firms from the design, engineering, and construction industry have provided volunteers to assist with the program. Students have been exposed to diverse elements of the Cleveland construction community in multiple ways including visits to University Hospitals, The Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Global Center for Health Innovation and Cleveland Convention Center construction sites; office visits to the Cuyahoga County Engineer’s Office, PSI, and Gardiner Trane; walking architectural tours of University Circle; and design charrettes at the Kent State University Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative.

ACE Scholarships

One of the most significant aspects of ACE Mentoring is the dollars that are raised to provide the students with college scholarships. Many of our students are first generation college students and have not considered college as a possibility until their participation in ACE. Thanks to the hard work of the local industry, as well as the support of partner institutions like University Hospitals and Cleveland Foundation, ACE Mentoring program of Cleveland has raised $350,000 and provided scholarships to 74 students.
ACE Mentoring Program partnership with CMSD and value for students

The relationship between ACE Mentoring and Cleveland Metro School District (CMSD) is a true partnership, with both parties jointly involved in developing all aspects of the program’s development. Our unique collaboration has allowed the program to grow, adding new sites every year. ACE Cleveland has also been able to award hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to CMSD students through their participation in the program.

Students who are part of ACE gain an understanding of Project Based Learning concepts, expand their studies to include critical thinking and gain knowledge and understanding of working as a team. ACE also provides an innovative way for students to better understand the labor market and career fields within the design and construction industry.

Not only do our scholars benefit from the ACE Mentoring program, their families gain an understanding of the program through the eyes of their child. At the end of each school year families are able to view their child’s work and see them presenting to an audience of over 500 attendees consisting of parents, other students, and experts in their field. The most heartfelt experience is for a parent/caregiver to actually see what their child has accomplished in the ACE Program.

This has been an invaluable partnership for CMSD and I am confident it will continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

Eric Gordon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT (CMSD)

Supporting THE CLEVELAND ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

Raising money to continue the work of the organization is one of the most critical activities we perform. ACE Mentoring Program is an entirely volunteer driven organization, organized and managed day to day by companies and individuals from the local design and construction industry. This offsets the large majority of our operating costs. Funds are still needed to provide the students with transportation, access to software and other learning materials and most importantly to finance the continued health of the scholarship program.

If you are interested in supporting the mission of ACE, please contact Glen Shumate, Executive Director at glen@coacisp.org.

Across the country and especially here in Cleveland, ACE is enabling us to groom the next generation of professionals in our industry. Contributing to ACE Cleveland with our time, our skills and perhaps most importantly our financial support, is critical to the organization’s growth and continued success.

Tom Laird
GILBANE

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- James Rhodes High School
- John Hay High School
- Collinwood High School
- Max Hayes High School
- New Tech East High School
- New Tech West High School

SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2008, the ACE Mentor Program of Cleveland has partnered with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to provide mentoring, education and over $350,000 of scholarship assistance to Cleveland high school students.

Scholarship Banquet – MAY
ACE Charity Golf Outing – AUGUST

Mentor OF THE YEAR

CT Consultants’ Rich Iafelice was the 2015 recipient of the Courtney Behm Exemplary Volunteer Award

ANNUAL CALENDAR

- Classes Kick-Off – SEPTEMBER
- ACE Family Day – OCTOBER
- Mentor Mingle – FEBRUARY
- Scholarship Banquet – MAY
- ACE Charity Golf Outing – AUGUST
Anytime that we recognize our supporting partners we start with University Hospitals, whose leadership and transformative donation to our scholarship fund have enabled ACE Cleveland to become what it is today.