WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2014 HONOREES

- Philanthropist of the Year

LORI GUIDRY, DBIA
President
Development Industries, Inc.
Los Angeles

Lori Guidry has been a “woman making a difference” in Los Angeles since 2002, when she first became a dedicated volunteer mentor with the ACE Mentor Program and helped to establish a local presence for this national non-profit organization in Los Angeles. Since it was created (by Guidry and a small group of fellow industry professionals), ACE Los Angeles has awarded over $615,000 to local high school students interested in pursuing careers in Architecture, Construction and Engineering (A/C/E). Last year, Guidry was recognized by ACE Los Angeles as the 2013 Construction Industry Professional “Mentor of the Year” and is now Chairman of the ACE Los Angeles Board of Directors. She does this while also serving in a demanding professional role as President and Partner in her own construction management firm, Development Industries, Inc.

From the beginning, Guidry found time to help establish a team of A/C/E industry colleagues to mentor a group of interested students at John Marshall High School. The program involves meeting with the students every other week, with mentors representing each of the A/C/E disciplines. During the first half of the school year, ACE sponsors field trips to professional A/C/E firms and job sites. Then, during the second half of the school year, the students meet at school to work on a design-build project.

Over the years, Guidry has personally mentored hundreds of inner-city students - many of them being the first in their families to graduate from high school - and many of them have gone on to receive Bachelors and Masters’ Degrees from universities as close as USC and as far away as MIT. As testament to the program, several of Guidry’s students have returned after graduating from college with a desire to “give back” to ACE and as young professionals are now also volunteering as mentors.

El Segundo

Congratulations to the 2014 Women Making a Difference Nominees

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