Executive Director’s Note
Trisha Grant, LEED AP

Dear Friends of ACE:

What an amazing year we’ve had thus far. Not only was ACE, as a National program, recognized with the prestigious 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), but locally we have been featured by WJLA news 7 as an outstanding nonprofit, mentor organization serving the DC metropolitan area.

Please join us in May for our Student Presentation Nights (SPN) where our mentees will showcase their design and engineering projects. Having provided direct mentoring services to nearly 200 students this year, the SPNs will again need to be broken up into three Student Presentation Nights – for the DC, Virginia, and Maryland ACE teams, respectively. Additional details forthcoming.

Our annual Scholarship Awards Breakfast and networking reception is right around the corner, taking place on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. We look forward to DC City Administrator Allen Lew serving as our Keynote Speaker. We invite you to join us in celebrating academic achievement, and to support our local area high school students’ dreams for higher education. Again, many thanks to the Willard for underwriting the venue costs.

Lastly, we’d like to welcome our new Board member, Mr. Dave Sovinski, who is the National Director of the International Masonry Institute (IMI).

Please enjoy our Winter Newsletter!

SAVE THE DATE
2012 Scholarship Awards Breakfast
May 15, 2012

WINTER 2012 CALENDAR

January 2012
• January 27. Winter Board Meeting & ACE Online Scholarship Application goes live

March 2012
• March 15. CIRT Competition Entries Due

April 2012
• April 1. Scholarship Applications Due
• Mentor Appreciation Event

May 2012
• Week of May 7th-ACE Student Presentation Nights for DC, Virginia, and Maryland
• May 15. Scholarship Awards Breakfast
ACE Open House Mentoring Sessions

January 2012

In honor of January, National Mentoring Month, ACE DC hosted several open house mentoring sessions in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. We would like to thank our mentors and teachers from Booker T. Washington PCS, Bell Multicultural HS, Flowers HS, Hayfield Secondary School, Washington Lee HS, and Arlington Career Center who welcomed all our guests to take part and see first-hand all that ACE has to offer.
ACE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BREAKFAST

Wednesday, May 15, 2012 @ 8:00-11:00a.m.
The Willard – Washington, DC

Support scholarships for ACE Mentees’ higher education. For more information, visit www.acementor.org/592 or contact Outreach Coordinator Susan Muniz at 202-572-2500 or reach her via email at washingtondc@acementor.org

$10K PENTHOUSE
Provides $5,000 scholarship; Receive two breakfast tables of ten; Prominent event signage; Recognition of scholarship award; Special mention in the program; Year-long recognition on ACE website; and Year-long recognition in ACE publications

$5K TOP FLOOR
- Provides $2,500 scholarship
- Receive one breakfast table for ten
- Prominent event signage
- Recognition of scholarship award
- Special mention in the program
- Year-long recognition on ACE website
- Year-long recognition in ACE publications

$3,500 MEZZANINE
- Provides $1,500 scholarship
- Receive one breakfast table for ten
- Medium event signage
- Recognition of scholarship award
- Special mention in the program
- Year-long recognition on ACE website
- Year-long recognition in ACE publications

$2,000 LOBBY
- Provides $1,000 scholarship
- Receive one breakfast table for ten
- Medium event signage
- Recognition of scholarship award
- Special mention in the program
- Year-long recognition on ACE website
- Year-long recognition in ACE publications

$1,500 Breakfast Table
- Breakfast table for ten, with access to full breakfast

$160 Individual Ticket

SPECIALTY PACKAGES
Each package purchased provides named recognition during the event; Medium event signage; and helps underwrite event costs

Coffee Station - $500
Full Breakfast - $500

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ACE ALUMS

Where Are They Now?
We caught up with a few of our alums to learn about their next, exciting adventures after graduating from high school and the ACE Mentor Program:

Charles White – 2006-2007 ACE Mentee
A recent graduate from the University of Maryland in College Park, earned a degree in History with a concentration in science and technology. At present, Charles is working at the university but is actively seeking a consultant position in urban transportation planning. In his free time he enjoys writing music.

“I was a student in the ACE mentoring program during my senior year at Suitland High School. During our classes, I worked with my team to plan the area around the then new Nationals stadium in D.C. This was the first time I had ever thought about designing an urban space. I did not know at that time that I would want to pursue urban planning as a career. ACE mentoring program laid that foundation for me. Thank you!”

Rachel Jordan – 2010 Scholarship Winner
Attending North Carolina State University, she is a sophomore majoring in Architecture. Rachel volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and Builders of Hope. Her other extracurricular activities include the United States Green Building Council and National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

“The ACE program gave me a preview to what my field of study was about and gave me a great outlook to college. Not only was a provided a scholarship but I have kept up with the program and the contacts I have made. The program continues to benefit me as well as youth coming into the program.”

Eileen Phan – 2011 Scholarship Winner
Currently a freshman at Virginia Tech, Eileen is majoring in Civil Engineering. She is a member of the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA).

“The ACE Mentor Program allowed me to make my decision of whether or not I wanted to study engineering in college. The mentors were able to answer any questions I had while I was still in high school and provided me with a lot of information. Overall, I enjoyed my 2 years of experience with the ACE Mentor Program and appreciate the scholarship they have provided for me.”

Sara Fleetwood – 2010 Scholarship Winner
Now a sophomore at Virginia Tech, she is majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Green Engineering. Sara is part of the VPI Cave Club and enjoys surveying/mapping unexplored caves. She also volunteers in a program called BARC and her hobbies include photography, running, slack-lining, and rock-climbing.

“The ACE mentor program meant a lot to me because, without it, I may not have realized that I wanted to become an engineer. Also, the program helped give me guidance in what I wanted to do with my future, was a great thing to have on college applications, provided experience with computer programs (inventor, revit, autocad, etc.), and provided me with a scholarship that has been very nice to have this year. Thank you for everything that you guys have done for me!”
Tammy Do – 2010-2011 ACE Mentee
She is currently a freshman at Virginia Tech’s College of Architecture and Urban Studies majoring in Landscape Architecture.

“I would have never considered studying architecture without ACE and now I absolutely enjoy every minute of my studies. ACE introduced me to the field but more importantly, it exposed me to the atmosphere, which was what intrigued me the most. I had the chance to work with one of the best mentors and overall great person, Chris Reseigh. He helped us develop teamwork and showed us the importance of working together… ACE means a lot to me because it gave me a great first impression of a career in design that I know I will excel in. Thanks ACE!”

Michelle Holly – 2009-2010 ACE Mentee
A sophomore at University of Pittsburgh, she is majoring in Architecture Studies with a minor in Music. Outside of class Michelle enjoys singing, playing guitar, and playing basketball.

“The Ace Mentor Program really helped me to gain a more inside look at the career of architecture that I am pursuing. I loved doing projects as part of the program and I became more comfortable with the idea of being an architect one day. This program meant a lot to me and I hope that the current and future participants of this program gain something special from it as I did.”

Other UNIVERSITIES ACE GRADUATES attended or are currently attending include:

- Alleghany College
- Arizona State
- Carnegie Mellon
- Catholic University of America
- Cleveland State
- Colorado State
- Cornell University
- Drexel University
- Florida A&M University
- Frostburg State University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- Grinnell College (Iowa)
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- James Madison
- Johnson C. Smith University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State
- Montgomery College
- North Carolina State University
- Northern Virginia Community College
- Old Dominion University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Prince George’s Community College
- Radford University
- South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
- Texas Southern University
- University of Hartford
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of the District of Columbia
- University of Virginia
- University of Wyoming
- Virginia Commonwealth
- Virginia Tech
- West Virginia University
- Xavier University
ACE ALUMS

Where Are They Now?
(cont.)

Brendan Forristal – 2009-2010 ACE Mentee
Now a sophomore at Drexel University in Philadelphia, he is majoring in Architecture and spends his free time learning carpentry.

“The ACE Mentor Program was a good place to meet new people, learn about construction and work on some fun projects. I had a great time and hope to be able to become a mentor in the future so I can inspire young adults like I myself was inspired.”

Cyzzannesh Harvey – 2009-2010 ACE Mentee
Currently a sophomore at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) majoring in Architecture. Cyzzannesh is actively involved in the music department, is starting an orchestra, and is also a part of AIAS at UDC.

“The ACE Mentor Program was that boost I needed in high school to show me that my career choice was perfect. They showed me how to use my skills to my advantage especially in the field of Architecture and Engineering… the meetings were educational and the material that was taught to me was the reason why I continued to pursue my career by studying Architecture at the University of the District of Columbia.”

Alejandra Rossi – 2009-2010 ACE Mentee
Now in the process of finishing her associate’s degree at Northern Virginia Community College, she soon plans to transfer to Catholic University of America to major in Architecture. Alejandra also works as a volunteer at the National Building Museum.

“The ACE Mentor program helped me learn more about the career I’m pursuing right now. I was surrounded by amazing people, great friends and lots of learning. It was a fun and valuable experience. I recommend every high school student who plans to get into the construction industry to get into ACE because it will set the path to your career.”

Ilyssa Kaserman – 2009-2010 ACE Mentee
A sophomore at the Illinois Institute of Technology, she is majoring in Architecture. Ilyssa enjoys traveling in her free time.

“The ACE Mentor Program gave me hands on experience and exposure to architecture that provided me assurance to major in architecture in college.”
ACE DC Featured on Harris’ Heroes

In January, ACE DC was featured on Harris’ Heroes, WJLA’s local news series that spotlights organizations and citizens benefitting youth in the DC area. The news team visited an ACE open house mentoring session at Booker T. Washington Public Charter School, hosted by ACE Mentors Dawit Zena, Winston Wright, Anthony Stewart, Elizabeth Chong, Gaftie Marlow, and Brian Petruzzi.

The news crew witnessed ACE students in action as they completed hands-on activities that taught the importance of foundations and structural design.

ACE DC Executive Director Trisha Grant, former ACE student Krystal Robinson, and current ACE student Eliyas Aregahgene were all interviewed on the importance of mentoring and programs like ACE that provide career direction to high school students. ACE DC was honored to have been recognized by Harris’ Heroes as an organization working to serve youth in our community.
Student Narrative-Life after ACE

Marlon Ulloa-2008 ACE Scholarship Award Winner
Current Architecture Student-University of the District of Columbia (Fall ’12)

Nowadays, every aspect in life seems to be related to a combination of learning, skills, and desire. I have personally learned this as I reflect on the life experiences and knowledge I have gained since my early childhood. As an international student it has not been easy, I had to overcome lots of obstacles since the first day I arrived in the United States. As a student coming from a low-income family I never thought I would make it to obtain a higher education. However, I worked really hard through high school, and organizations like the ACE Mentor Program complimented my work. I am really thankful to ACE and to the people that donated the money for my scholarship. Without this scholarship, I would not be able to attend school. School has always been my priority, and my desire of becoming an Architect makes me work really hard every single day.

Now, I would like to share what I have been doing lately; my major is Architecture, which I have been enjoying since my first semester. It has not been easy but I know, one day I will be rewarded for my efforts. I have been on the school soccer team since my freshman year. During summer time, I did an internship at a company called Futures Groups. I also volunteered at the Interfaith Work—a center helping low income families providing them with clothes donated by people from the area. I also have been participating for almost two years at the Columbia Heights Youth Soccer League indoor and outdoor soccer programs. Columbia Heights Youth Soccer League provides the only sports programs for Latinos and other minority groups in the District of Columbia. My duties include soccer clinic instruction, future site tournament coordination, player’s registration and other administrative and operating tasks. I really enjoy helping people; it makes me feel content every time I see a smile on someone’s face. I am pursuing my career in Architecture because I think I can be helpful to society by providing my service in the future. Participating in different programs has helped me as a young person to prepare myself for the real world and obtain essential skills that will lead me towards a successful future. I know I need to keep working hard because the more knowledge and skills I have the better it will be for society. Once again I would like say thank you to ACE Mentor Program, and its sponsors for helping to make my dreams come true so I can contribute to my community in a positive way.

Sincerely,
Marlon Ulloa
In general, the main identifying goals of the ACE DC Affiliate are:

- Mentors (industry professionals, tradesmen, etc.) for the school year
- Guest Speakers/Mentors (a presentation periodically to students)
- Construction/Site Tours of projects
- Donations/Grant opportunities

If you know of any opportunities, or other items of interest to ACE DC, please feel free to contact Executive Director Trisha Grant at tgrantdcaffiliate@acementor.org.