



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OMAHA
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

Student Testimonials

The following are excerpts from some of the scholarship applicants when answering the questions:

“What was the most valuable lesson you learned from the ACE Mentor Program?”

Cassandra Wiley wrote.....Working with a team was the most valuable lesson I learned with my two years in ACE. It’s easy to take control of the group and do the project solo, but I really had to learn the difference between being a leader in the group versus taking the project and running with it. Teamwork is essential in these careers and this program really helped the students understand what it will be like. Our mentors pushed us to equally to complete our categories and work together, so we all had the same knowledge and understanding to present.

Owen de la Cruz wrote...learning how to collaborate with other people who may have entirely separate visions of said project than I do. Throughout this project, at almost every single step in the process, there has been at least one person who expresses some level of disagreement with how we're going about said process, and I think that I, and the group as a whole, have really learned how to take everybody's feedback together and create something that incorporates everybody's ideas together into one project.

Dayton Bailey wrote... My junior year our group struggled constantly because we didn’t communicate our changes with the rest of the group. Our mentor helped us organize our work and showed us how to share it with others in an efficient manner. We got better at this as the year went on and carried these skills with us. When senior year ACE began our group immediately laid out how we were going to communicate our changes within the building, we organized our desks in a specific way around a white board where we all wrote our daily tasks. We did this because our entire group now understood the importance of communicating with the rest of the group, and how much more smoothly the project would go if this was done correctly.

LaDaysia Smith wrote... that it is okay to make mistakes. As a high school student looking into professions I wanted to appear perfect and as if I knew and had a hold on everything I was doing. But the ACE mentors always made it a point not to judge, get frustrated, and find a way to relate to us. They made the environment friendly and inviting but also educational.

Isiah Rubio wrote...The most valuable lesson I learned from my ace mentor was that it is okay to make mistakes. As a high school student looking into professions I wanted to appear perfect and as if I knew and had a hold on everything I was doing. But the ACE mentors always made it a point not to judge, get frustrated, and find a way to relate to us. They made the environment friendly and inviting but also educational.

Bailey Pham wrote...being professional is as much a part of being an engineer as the actual work is. I learned that being punctual is very important, as is being efficient with your work. Similarly, I learned that sometimes you have to get out of your comfort zone to get the job done.

Often my team would stop working on our project, and I had to be the one to get us on task, even when we did not have a lot of external pressure to get our work done. I am not the most extroverted person in the world, and sometimes it was uncomfortable for me to take charge of our group, but it needed to be done and I gained valuable leadership skills.

Alyssa Husk wrote...The most rewarding part of this whole experience is working with the mentors. They could answer and clarify any questions we had. They gave us pieces of advice and suggestion which we had the choice to use or not. Being a part of the ACE program has been an overall phenomenal experience for me

Moe Oo wrote... most rewarding part of this whole experience is working with the mentors. They could answer and clarify any questions we had. They gave us pieces of advice and suggestion which we had the choice to use or not. Through them, I learned so much about Revit and what goes into making the floor plans so that it is safe and efficient for occupants.

“Were you planning on a career in this field before the ACE program or did ACE steer you in that direction?”

Pierce Tomlinson wrote...Thanks to ACE, I was able to meet professionals in the engineering field who have mentored my group this year in advanced modeling within Revit software, creating budget spread sheets and improving presentation performance.

Kaw Ku wrote...It is such a BIG opportunity to be in the ACE Program.

Morgan Ferrin wrote... Throughout the program I have been able to develop a passion for making things that work and understanding why they work. ACE has shown me that there is a multitude of projects and opportunities available for engineers to make an impact within communities. Even though my senior year project was cut short, being able to visit and work on a project for the Highlander neighborhood has made me believe that I could make a huge impact on someone’s life by being an engineer. After college, I hope to be involved in a mentoring program so I can encourage and positively impact other young women to pursue a STEM pathway. Overall, having ACE mentors that encouraged creativity and teamwork to all students, has made me want to become an engineer and an advocate!

Karson Swartzbaugh wrote... Through ACE, I scratched the surface of things I would enjoy as a mechanical engineer. Between calculating the airflow, the building design process, and the public speaking pitch, I’m psyched to enter an ACE field, most likely as a mechanical engineer as next year for the ACE project I want to dabble in structural engineering, another math intensive discipline. This flexibility within the ACE program for me to try whole career paths for FREE while also under the redirection of professionals is nothing I’ve ever experienced, yet alone heard of. The ACE program is fantastic and I cannot wait to participate next year.