



**ACE MENTOR PROGRAM**  
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

*Celebrating 10 Years of Mentoring in NE Florida*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA CELEBRATES ITS 10th YEAR AT ANNUAL YEAR-END EVENT FOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Jacksonville, Florida, May 16, 2016 – ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida held its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Year-End Event on May 20, 2016 at the UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center.

More than 260 high school students, teachers, parents and industry representatives from Duval, Clay and St. Johns County participated in the 2016 ACE year-end event. The teams included students from Creekside, Lee, Middleburg, Orange Park and Homeschools. This year's project assignment was a Historical Revitalization Challenge, the development of The Laura Street Trio (Trio) located in the heart of downtown Jacksonville. The Trio developer, Steve Atkins and the director of marketing and community engagement, Lisa Goodrich, provided the students full access to existing building drawings and the resources of the design and construction team during a site visit. The teams presented their design and construction concepts to the judges for scoring in the categories of Best Overall, Best Approach, and Best Presentation.



**ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc.**

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**Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering**

The event also included the award of \$19,200 in scholarships to high school seniors and junior mentors pursuing careers in Architecture, Construction or Engineering. Scholarships are sponsored by industry partners including architects, engineers, contractors, industry professionals, associations and private donors.



The National Team students representing Homeschools and Orange Park High School (OPHS) presented their projects entered in the 2016 Construction Industry Roundtable (CIRT) construction/design competition.

The Homeschool team chose the Shoreline Design Challenge utilizing the Southbank property previously owned by JEA, currently being developed as The District by Peter Rummell. They incorporated elements for a resilient and sustainable, waterfront multi-use development. The team from OPHS chose the Bridge Design/Redesign Construction Challenge and presented their concept for the Unity Bridge connecting Jacksonville's sports and entertainment district just east of the downtown business district with the Southbank and most of Jacksonville's population via the I-95 corridor. They received a national CIRT award, ranking first in their challenge category and third overall in the country.

The ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. (ACE) helps mentor high school students and inspires them to pursue careers in design and construction. It is 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

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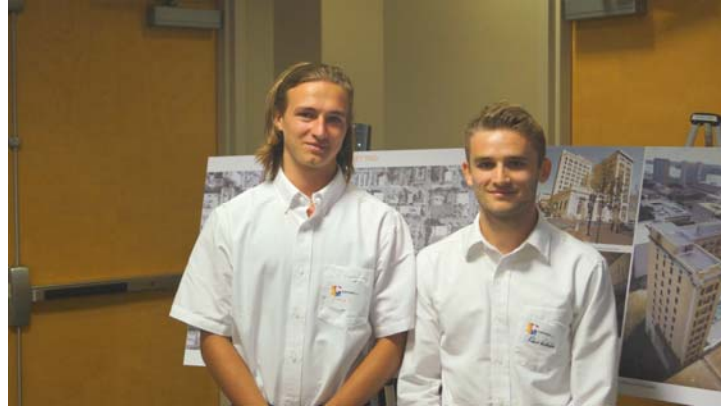
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volunteer mentors to expose students to real-world opportunities, it financially supports each student's continued success through scholarships and grants. Since inception, ACE has awarded over \$14 million in scholarships to promising participants. By working with real professionals in real work environments, ACE students receive an invaluable hands-on education — they learn to understand the day-to-day workings of a business by living it, experiencing it, not merely reading about it.



ACE Northeast Florida was founded in 2006 with significant support from the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and Haskell. The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, helps high school students explore potential careers in architecture, construction and engineering (ACE). Scholarships are given each year through the continued support corporate and personal donors. Since 2006 we have awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships to students pursuing the ACE fields.

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