ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF CHARLOTTE AT CAROLINAFEST 2012

The ACE Mentor Program of Charlotte exhibited at both the CarolinaFest 2012 and Legacy Village, hosted by the Charlotte in 2012 Host Committee. This non-partisan organization aimed to highlight efforts by the community that support Mayor Anthony Foxx’s convention legacy programs.

As part of the Youth Employment and Civic Education village, ACE spent much of the labor day festival interacting with local families and challenging kids to build the tallest structure they could out of spaghetti and marshmallows. For many this was not only an introduction to ACE, but to engineering basics. Students currently enrolled with the ACE mentor program staffed our booth throughout the week alongside mentors and board members. This was an opportunity for our students to turn the tables and become the teacher. For many of our students this is outside of their comfort zone and a skill we continuously work on.

During the work week, the audience at our booth shifted towards delegates, out of town visitors and professionals. When asked about his experience working at the legacy village with ACE, one of our Lead Mentors commented that:

The opportunity provided to ACE to participate in the DNC allowed our local affiliate to reach out to cities all over the country who have yet to hear about our program. I spoke to delegates from Harlem, NY, Ft. Myers, FL, Greensboro, NC, and Southern California who sit on their local school boards and told them about ACE’s mission and the investment that today’s Design + Construction industry is making in today’s students.

The students involved with the activities during this week got a unique experience. One of our program’s youngest and most energetic students had this to say:

ACE is different from any other organization at East Meck because many opportunities emerged since I have joined such as participating at the DNC and learning about what real life architects, construction workers, and engineers do. The mentors have been so helpful and I hope that others get the chance to experience working with them as well. I love the ACE Mentor Program!