Classes for the 2019-2020 program began October 3rd. We have accepted 42 students into this year's program! Student registration is up 20% from last year.

In the past two years, 26 different school districts have enrolled students into the ACE Mentoring Program, an 84% increase from two years ago.

We are presenting many new classes to our students this year: technology, civil engineering, interior design and marketing. We also have a new concrete footing design for this year's competition.

We will be offering six hands on experiences again this year: roofing, painting, metal stud framing, concrete forming, plumbing and electrical.

RIT PARTNERS WITH ACE

The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) is continuing to be a strategic partner with ACE Rochester for this coming year. We are excited to announce that RIT will be hosting the ACE Rochester Graduation and providing us classroom space and enough computers for each student in our technology class.

Last year was the first year RIT matched our ACE Rochester Scholarships for students who were attending RIT after graduation. RIT will continue to match our scholarships for qualifying students this year.

In addition, RIT will host a campus tour for students and parents Saturday, November 16th from 10:00am to 12:00pm.
Colin Thompson, a graduate of Webster Thomas High School and ACE Rochester alum, was awarded The CMiC—Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship worth $10,000. Colin is one of 25 students nationwide to receive an award in a new $400,000 scholarship program organized by the ACE Mentor Program of America.

The CMiC—Allen Berg Memorial Scholarships are worth between $10,000 and $40,000. They are named in honor of the late founder of the construction management software company, CMiC, and are intended to assist talented and deserving students planning to study architecture, engineering or construction in college.

"From his essay answers and involvement in the ACE Mentorship Program, as well as Explorers, it was clear that Colin is passionate about entering the architectural field," stated Thomas Button, ACE Rochester mentor. In addition to The CMiC—Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship, Colin is also one of seven ACE Rochester students who were awarded scholarships at the ACE Mentor Program of Rochester's Annual Fundraiser and Graduation event that took place on Friday, March 29, 2019 at the Strathallan Hotel. The ACE Rochester Affiliate awarded six $3000 scholarships and one $1000 Tools/Personal Protective Equipment scholarship, totaling $29,000 in scholarships for the evening.

"The CMiC—Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship competition was highly competitive. From among 10,000 students nationwide, each of ACE’s 70 affiliates could nominate only one student. Nominees went through a two-stage review process assessing their merit and financial need. Colin and the other 24 scholarship winners received their award at ACE’s 25th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC on May 14."

ACE Rochester Graduate Colin Thompson Wins Prestigious $10,000 Scholarship From ACE National

ACE Rochester Partners with Zoey’s Light for Another Year

In 2019, the ACE Mentor Program of Rochester partnered with Zoey’s Light Inc., a Rochester based charity organization, to donate all six of our student designed and built playhouses to sick children. ACE Rochester is proud to announce our partnership with Zoey’s Light for another year to donate 8 playhouses in 2020.

Zoey Daggett was a five year old girl from Fairport, NY who fought a Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma tumor (DIPG). In 2018, ACE Rochester donated our Fish Bowl playhouse to Zoey and her family so she could enjoy the magic of the deep blue sea in her backyard. Sadly, Zoey passed on July 4, 2018.

We look forward to a long relationship with Zoey’s Light and bringing joy to many children in the Greater Rochester Area.

To learn more about Zoey’s Light visit www.zoeyslight.org or find them on Facebook @Zoey’sFightDIPG.

ACE Rochester Partners with Zoey’s Light for Another Year

$29,000 in ACE Scholarships awarded in 2019.
2019 OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF THE YEAR – BILL KETCHEN

The ACE National Outstanding Mentor Program recognized William (Bill) Ketchen for the ACE Mentor of the Year distinction. Bill, our Chapter President, was one of the founding members of the Rochester chapter, which began 10 years ago in 2009. It is largely because of Bill’s enthusiasm, dedication, and tremendous generosity that the program has blossomed into a leading ACE affiliate nationwide.

When the program was founded, Bill was one of 3 determined mentors who sought out community support to create a truly engaging and hands-on learning opportunity. He contacted local suppliers to donate materials that could be used in the construction of a dog house. Over the years, support grew, until teams of 4-6 students could each design and build their own children’s playhouse.

Bill became Chapter President in 2017, and takes the position seriously. In two years, he has single-handedly more than doubled our annual revenue through sponsorships, which in turn has allowed our scholarship program to grow. Additionally, Bill has worked with the Rochester Institute of Technology to arrange matching scholarships for students who enroll.

In 2018, Bill unveiled an extensive construction trades program, which included seven brand new hands-on classes, including a metal stud framing experience, electrical wiring at an actual NECA training facility, roofing and painting, a plumbing field experience, and a concrete forming competition.

While most of us are swept away by the chaos of the holidays, Bill is hand-writing thank-you cards to each and every mentor to let them know how much they are appreciated. While we struggle to leave work and make it to classes, Bill shows up with homemade baked goods.

Bill has a passion for ACE that is completely unmatched. He is a charismatic and powerful leader who also gets emotional when describing ACE to colleagues. He has dedicated his “free time” to ACE, and has forever left his mark. Whether he knows it or not, he has inspired many to lead by example with compassion and integrity. Simply put, Bill is an outstanding mentor.

WE ARE PROUD TO WELCOME FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO ACE ROCHESTER

Gary Flisnik, Assoc. AIA, PMP Bergmann Associates
Michael Richtmper The Pike Companies, LTD
Jamie Gaetano Oasis Finishes
Brian Kelly, LEED AP of Manning Squires Hennig Co.

2019 ACE NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Our board members Madalyn Button and Bill Ketchen attended this year’s ACE National Convention in Washington DC.

Colin Powell spoke on ACE at the 25th Anniversary Dinner.

ACE Rochester presented our trades program at the All Affiliates Conference.