Kirkwood’s Architecture, Construction and Engineering Career Academy provides the perfect opportunity for high school students to learn about the growing industry.

**Gain experience**
As part of the program, students are fully immersed in actual building projects to get hands-on experience.

**Get industry input**
Thanks to a partnership with Eastern Iowa’s ACE Mentor Program, students work alongside practicing professionals to get a sense of the real work environment.

**Discover a future career**
The program covers the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue a career or go on for further training within the industry. Students enrolled receive credit from both their high school and Kirkwood. They complete courses in architectural plans and specs, residential and commercial construction, among others.

**Take the first step**
High school students with an interest should talk to their counselor to see if the ACE Academy is offered at a Kirkwood location near them.
ACE Academy students at Linn County Regional Center recently completed construction of a tiny house. Built within a storage container, the tiny house is 300 square feet, with two windows and two sliding glass doors.

Over the course of 12 weeks, the group of 18 students insulated the container, built the wood frames, assisted with the plumbing and electrical work, completed the wall coverings and floorings and installed all fixtures, furnishing and appliances. In addition, Kirkwood’s Interior Design students assisted by choosing paint colors and flooring.

The finished product is a one-bedroom, one-bath home, entirely made of sustainable and local materials.