ACE Mentor Program Students Connect With Shore Health System Architects

EASTON, MD — On November 3, 2010, students from the ACE Mentor Program of Maryland’s Eastern Shore met with architects representing Shore Health System to brainstorm the new regional medical center project. ACE students learned how a large scale conceptual project evolves, from the research phase to design and digital rendering of a building plan.

Easton and St. Michaels High Schools and Saints Peter and Paul School students joined mentors Lindsey Hill of Whiting Turner and Katie Reedy and Antoine Wheatley of Willow Construction for the roundtable conference. Jack Dempsey, Chairman of ACE’s Eastern Shore chapter and Dr. Charles Thornton, founder of the national ACE Mentor Program and world-renowned engineer, were also on hand to offer their industry expertise.

Anthony Kelly, Project Director for the Regional Medical Center led the discussion, along with HKS Architect Shannon Krauss and designer Chad Porter. The Shore Health System architectural team described a typical time line for developing a project of this size, from concept to completion. They began the process with extensive research on the Mid-Shore’s environmental and demographic profiles. A display board of photos from the area provided inspiration during the medical center’s conceptualization.

Students participated in a virtual demonstration of building information modeling (BIM) and 3D software used in the medical center’s design process. Thornton declared that “3D technology has revolutionized the industry.” Kelly presented an engineering flowchart generated by the design software that facilitated the accurate estimation of project costs during the conceptual stage, as well as allowing for engineering marvels like the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain, designed by Frank Gehry, to be conceived.

Kelly also talked about Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) with ACE students, all of who were already familiar with the “green” certification system. Kelly noted that the design and energy efficiency of a building project is very important in controlling future costs once the project is completed.

The Shore Health architectural team inquired about each student’s career interest in the architecture, construction, and engineering industries, the building blocks of ACE. Kelly reminded students that hand drawing skills are still vital to the conceptual sketching phase of a project. The continued on the next page

Anthony Kelly (standing right), Project Director - Regional Medical Center, Shore Health System, representatives from HKS Architects, and ACE students from Easton and St. Michaels High Schools and Saints Peter and Paul School.
team provided students with a packet of drawing materials to be used in creating their own virtual design projects. Each student was queried on their specific ACE project; one student mentioned that he is currently designing a veteran’s health care center in Denton, Maryland. Kelly, Krauss, and Porter all generously offered future assistance in answering questions from students as they work through their own ACE projects.

Kelly noted that more than 100 consultants from various construction industry fields will be involved in this project. The ACE student team will return in the near future to meet with Shore Health System’s regional medical center representatives to review the project’s progress.

Get Your Raffle Tickets!
Once again we will be raffling off a Basket of Goodies at the 2011 Annual ACE Breakfast. Raffle tickets can be purchased from ACE students, mentors and board members. Ed Alvarado of St. Michaels was last year’s winner of a basket containing valuable local restaurant gift certificates. This year’s basket of treats will be even better —details to follow!

Donate to ACE online—it’s quick, easy & secure
You can now make a secure donation online, thanks to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation (MSCF). Go to www.mscf.org/donate.html and complete the online form (be sure to check Name of MSCF Fund and specify ACE Mentor Program in the box below.) If you have questions, please contact MSCF at 410-820-8175. Remember, your donation helps support our Scholarship Fund.

ACE Mentor Program of Maryland’s Eastern Shore
www.acementor.org

ACE Mentor News

Thorntons Host ACE Kick-Off Party
ACE Eastern Shore would like to thank Charlie and Carolyn Thornton for hosting our fabulous kick-off party on September 24. We welcomed some new faces this year, including Ryk Lesser and Andrea Tassen-court with Green Energy Design and Scott Saxman with Whiting Turner, who represented the new Salisbury Chapter.