



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

Engage Excite Inspire

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

2024



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Program Overview

WHAT IS ACE?

Founded in 1994, the ACE Mentor Program of America (ACE) is a free, award-winning, after-school program designed to attract high school students into pursuing careers in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering industry, including skilled trades. ACE has grown to more than 75 affiliates (chapters), operating throughout the US and Canada, largely based in metropolitan areas. A national office supports the affiliate programs.

ACE is one of the fastest growing programs in the country, serving over 10,000 students annually, drawn from approximately 1,500 high schools. The majority of ACE students (70%) are minority, and over 40% are female. More than 40% of ACE seniors entering college are first generation scholars.

More than 4,000 volunteer industry professionals mentor student teams through a 35-hour-long simulation of designing and constructing a project.

Last year nearly \$4 million was awarded in scholarships to high school seniors and alumni studying to pursue industry-related careers. More than 90% of ACE alumni pursue college degrees or skilled trade training. ACE also offers students summer camp and internship opportunities. Finally, ACE estimates that 2,000+ alumni enter the AEC workforce each year.



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
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ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Founded during the 2006-2007 school year, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida (ACE NEFL) helps high school students explore potential careers in architecture, construction and engineering. Through the program, mentors from local industry professional firms meet with students once a week for 18-20 weeks. During these sessions, students work in teams to create practical solutions for “real-world” projects. It’s an effective way for students to experience the reality of what architects, contractors and engineers do during a typical working day.

NATIONAL LEVEL REPRESENTATION - CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL TEAM

For the eighth year, the Construction Industry Roundtable hosted the annual CIRT/ACE design competition as part of its spring conference held in Washington, D.C. Top honors at the event went to the Creekside HS National Team 1 for their Highway Interchange entry “North Star Interchange”.



Each year, CIRT offers students three different design challenges, ranging from solving transportation issues to creating green space in the neighborhood to build a venue for the Olympics. According to the five-person panel of judges for 2024, Creekside’s entry exhibited a strong responsiveness to their selected challenge, intermodal transportation.

Overall, the competition attracted more than 500 students and some 200 plus mentors to submit entries. The CIRT National Design & Construction Competition is a collaborative effort with the ACE Mentor Program of America. Mark A. Casso, president of CIRT, concludes, “Every year, I am more impressed with the quality of presentations and depth of solutions that address community and environmental needs. It gives me great confidence that we are truly building the next generation of extraordinarily talented industry professionals.”



PROGRAM GROWTH AND IMPACT

Last year, we welcomed 222 students from diverse backgrounds into the program. Our dedicated mentors, now over 87 industry professionals, were instrumental in providing hands-on learning experiences, fostering students' interest in the construction industry and helping them develop critical skills for their future careers.

One of our most significant achievements last year was the successful expansion of our program to Paxon School for Advanced Studies. This growth marks a crucial step in our mission to reach more students, especially in under-served communities. Paxon, known for its academic excellence and commitment to student development, has proven to be an ideal partner in our efforts to cultivate the next generation of industry professionals. With 11 students enrolled in the inaugural year, the program has already begun to make a substantial impact.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look forward to the coming year, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We remain committed to expanding our reach, enhancing our programs and ensuring that every student, regardless of background, can explore and succeed in architecture, engineering and construction.

Our strategic objectives for the next three years include: plan for talent and succession, track and engage alumni, continue to promote and incorporate the trades, develop alternate program expansion and develop a financial model to achieve objectives. We will also continue to seek out partnerships that align with our mission and values, enhancing our ability to make a lasting impact on the industry and the communities we serve.



2023-2024 Sponsors



Clay Shoot Sponsors

- Auld & White Constructors
- Building Envelope Consulting Group
- Batson-Cook
- FastSigns - St. Johns Bluff
- Fisher Concrete
- Florida Southern Plywood
- Foresight Construction
- Gilbane, Inc.
- Hollandsworth Construction
- Image Resource Group
- Legacy Engineering, Inc
- Matthews Design Group
- Miller Electric Company
- The Haskell Company
- Wilson Electric
- W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor

Trades Day Partners

- ABC First Coast
- American Electrical Contracting
- Auld & White Constructors
- Beard Equipment
- Brasfield & Gorrie
- Campbell Plumbing & Mechanical
- ICG Builds
- JE Abercrombie
- Stonewall Masonry
- Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors
- Ring Power
- The Haskell Company
- Tulsa Welding
- Superior Construction
- UA Local 234, Plumbers, Pipefitters and HVA Technicians
- W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors

Success Stories



ASHANTAE GREEN

JOURNEY FROM ACE MENTOR PROGRAM TO SUSTAINABILITY LEADER

Ashantae Green, now a Sustainability Manager for the City of Jacksonville and co-owner of Green Legacy Farm, is a shining example of how early exposure to career mentorship can shape a successful future. Her journey, which began with her participation in the ACE Mentor Program, has led her to become a leader in sustainability and agriculture, making a significant impact on her community and beyond.

DISCOVERING A PASSION

As a high school student, Ashantae joined the ACE Mentor Program with a curiosity about the built environment and a desire to explore potential career paths. The program introduced her to the fields of architecture, construction, and engineering, and provided her with hands-on experience and mentorship from industry professionals. It

was through this experience that Ashantae first encountered the concept of sustainable design and development, sparking a passion that would guide her future career.

GUIDED BY MENTORSHIP

The mentors in the ACE program played a crucial role in Ashantae's development. Not only did the mentors demonstrate that black women could be architects, but they also instilled in her the importance of sustainability in these fields. She was particularly inspired by mentors who emphasized the role of green building practices and sustainable development in combating climate change. Their guidance helped Ashantae see how she could make a difference by pursuing a career that aligned with her values of environmental stewardship.



BUILDING A CAREER IN SUSTAINABILITY

After completing the ACE program, Ashantae went on to study environmental science and sustainability in college. The foundation she built during her time in the program gave her a significant advantage, allowing her to excel in her studies and secure internships that further deepened her knowledge and experience in sustainable practices.

Upon graduation, Ashantae entered the workforce as a Sustainability Manager, where she quickly made a name for herself by leading initiatives to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency, and promote sustainable practices within her organization. Her work earned her recognition as a leader in the field, and she became a sought-after speaker on topics related to sustainability and green building.

CO-FOUNDING GREEN LEGACY FARM

In addition to her City leadership role, Ashantae's passion for sustainability led her to co-found Green Legacy Farm, a venture dedicated to sustainable agriculture. The farm not only produces organic, locally-sourced food but also serves as an educational hub, teaching others about sustainable farming practices. Ashantae's work on the farm reflects the values she developed during her time in the ACE Mentor Program—values of community, sustainability, and innovation.



GIVING BACK

Ashantae's journey has come full circle as she now serves as a volunteer in the ACE Mentor Program herself. She is passionate about giving back and helping the next generation of students discover their own potential. Ashantae hopes to inspire other young people to pursue careers in sustainability and to show them that with passion and dedication, they too can make a difference in the world.

Ashantae's work in government, business, and the community has earned her local and national recognition, including the honor of being named a National Women in Green by the USGBC, gracing the cover of Edible Northeast Florida magazine, and receiving two City of Jacksonville Environmental Achievement Awards... all before the age of 30!

Ashantae Green's story is a testament to the transformative power of mentorship and the impact that programs like ACE can have on a young person's life. From a curious high school student to a leader in sustainability and co-owner of a thriving farm, Ashantae's journey is a source of inspiration for all who seek to create a more sustainable future.





KEVIN DAVENPORT

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED OUTSTANDING SCHOOL CHAMPION

“The ACE Mentor Program offers students a unique opportunity to explore careers in architecture, construction, and engineering, giving them hands-on experience and valuable mentorship that inspires and shapes their future. I think the future is bright with so many opportunities in the AEC industry. ACE is a great fit for students to learn more.”

- Kevin Davenport

Kevin Davenport is a former high school educator who taught in St. Johns County, Florida, from 2010-2024. Kevin originally began his career as a licensed civil engineer, and after successfully running his own civil engineering company, he began his second career in education. He recently retired as an instructor in engineering to students in grades 10–12 at Creekside High School, in addition to serving as an adjunct professor at St. Johns River State College. Now as Client Director for Black & Veatch, Kevin volunteers as an ACE mentor, committee member and continued advocate.

Kevin started the ACE Mentor Program at Creekside High School during the 2015–2016 school year, and he was the first teacher in St. Johns County to start such a program. Kevin regularly managed over 50

students in the program annually, has helped over 120 students find careers in the AEC industry and has served as ACE Outreach Coordinator, helping kickoff ACE Mentor Programs across St. Johns County Schools. These efforts, in addition to the many events, involvements and opportunities Kevin hosts, make him a champion of his students and the ACE Mentor Program.



Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends and Supporters of ACE,

As we look ahead to the future, I am excited by the potential and opportunities for the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida. The 2023-2024 program year set a strong foundation for growth and innovation. With significant milestones and inspiring stories, we are more committed than ever to empowering the next generation of architects, engineers, and construction professionals.

Our program is thriving, welcoming nearly 200 students from diverse backgrounds, guided by 100 dedicated industry professionals. The expansion to Paxon School of Advanced Studies marks a pivotal step in our mission to reach more students, especially in underserved communities. With 11 students enrolled in its inaugural year, the impact is already evident.

Brasfield & Gorrie's Jacksonville office has chosen ACE as its primary fundraising beneficiary for 2024-2026, supporting us through events like the Cowford Invitational Golf Tournament and Impact Week. Their employees are actively participating as mentors, guest speakers, and board members.

We continue to innovate with programs like our annual Technology Bootcamp, Trades Day at RingPower, and professional development training. Partnerships with leading firms and educational institutions have provided students with internships, industry exposure, and access to state-of-the-art resources.

Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding our reach and enhancing our programs. Our strategic objectives include talent planning, alumni engagement, promoting trades, program expansion, and developing a sustainable financial model.

Our accomplishments are made possible by the unwavering support of our mentors, sponsors, partners, and dedicated staff. Your commitment shapes the futures of countless young people. Thank you for your continued support.

With sincere gratitude,

Nicole Eubanks, M.A. Affiliate Director



Board of Directors

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Nicole Eubanks, Affiliate Director
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Sponsorship Opportunities

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida has awarded over \$260,000 in college scholarships allowing students who have participated in the program to pursue a higher-education field of study within architecture, construction, and engineering. If you would like to give to the future of our industry through support of our program including skills development, jobsite visits, office visits, technology training, and related activities, please see the contribution opportunities below:

Annual Sponsorship Benefits	Premier \$15,000	Diamond \$5,000	Platinum \$2,500	Gold \$1,000	Silver \$500	Bronze \$250
Recognition as a Sponsor on ACE affiliate website (sponsorship tab) and in media press releases and fundraisers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One (1) separate, tagged, recognition post on the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida social media accounts.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One (1) multi-year scholarship sponsored by your Company.	✓					
At least one (2) one-time scholarships sponsored by your Company.	✓	✓				
At least one (1) one-time scholarship sponsored by your Company.			✓			
Named sponsor for all ACE Events: Clay Shoot, Kick-Off, Tech Bootcamp, Trades Day, and Year-End Event.	✓					
One (1) additional tagged recognition post on the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida social media accounts (2 total posts).	✓	✓	✓			
Company logo in the end-of-year event program.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Company name in end-of-year event program.						✓
Free admittance to end-of-year event	✓	✓	✓	✓		

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904-603-8751 | nefldirector@acementor.org



Brasfield & Gorrie

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida was selected as the Brasfield & Gorrie primary fundraising beneficiary for the years 2024-2026. The partnership kicked off during Impact Week in October 2023, where a Cornhole fundraising initiative resulted in \$33,000 of donations pledged to ACE NEFL. Brasfield & Gorrie also hosted their Annual Cowford Invitational golf tournament and the ACE Mentor Program was the beneficiary, receiving an additional \$95,000 in funding. This is an extraordinary opportunity for ACE to fortify and expand our program to benefit the youth of Northeast Florida.



Brasfield & Gorrie Cornhole Tournament, Impact Week 2023



Brasfield & Gorrie Cowford Invitational Golf Tournament on April 8, 2024.



ACE Students from each school decorated hard hats that were auctioned at the Brasfield & Gorrie Cowford Invitational Silent Auction.



Brasfield & Gorrie funds sponsored two scholarships. Benjamin York (left) was awarded a \$10,000 4-year scholarship and Kennedy Rhett (right) received a \$3,000 scholarship at the ACE Year-End Event.



Events



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL OF THE 2024-2025 EVENTS LISTED BELOW!

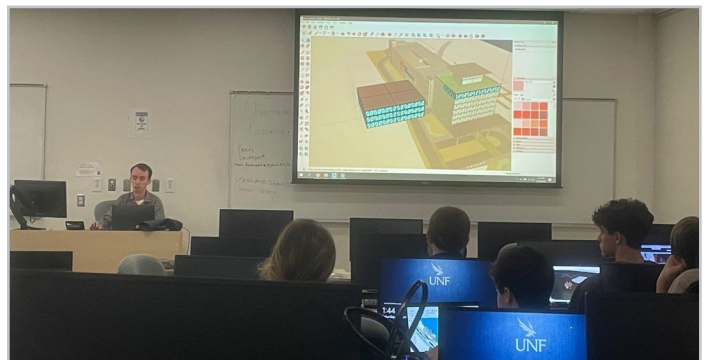
KICK-OFF EVENT & TOUR

ACE students visit the University of North Florida to include an introduction to opportunities at the Computing, Construction and Engineering College followed by a visit to active job sites on the university's campus. The interactive day highlights local career opportunities within the architecture, engineering and construction industry.



TECHNOLOGY BOOTCAMP

To help bridge the digital divide, ACE provides a Technology Bootcamp for local high school students. ACE students learn the basics of SketchUp, AutoCAD and REVIT along with access to Solid Professor hosted at the University of North Florida's College of Computing, Engineering and Construction.



CLAY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

ACE is thrilled to host our 5th annual Clay Shoot Fundraiser on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports. Proceeds raised from the tournament benefit the upcoming program year.



TRADES DAY

Trades Day is a unique opportunity for local companies to spark interest and excitement in ACE students by providing engaging hands-on activities, discussing specific company opportunities and benefits, and interacting with the students through demonstrations and presentations. The companies bring equipment to display and discuss what it is like working for them. Students are able to picture themselves actually working with these companies and leave the event inspired and educated about potential career paths.



CONSTRUCTION SITE & FIRM VISITS

Every spring, ACE coordinates a tour of an active construction site and local A-E-C office for students to get a hands-on learning experience of what a typical career in these various fields could look like for them.



YEAR-END EVENT

The annual Year-End Event in April showcases student's projects and announces scholarship awards. In 2024 ACE had 20 teams present final projects, awarded \$74,100 in scholarships and celebrated outstanding teachers and mentors.



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With a tax-deductible donation, you'll sponsor a student's participation in weekly mentoring, hands on projects, field trips, transportation and much more – providing a future for tomorrow's architecture, construction and engineering leaders.

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast FL | 1100 Kings Road, #43364, Jacksonville, FL 32203

