



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING
Engage Excite Enlighten



Chapter Highlights

GREATER AKRON - CANTON AFFILIATE

2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

This year started strong!

We are offering our program at Akron Early College High School, Ellet CLC, Firestone CLC, Garfield CLC, and Timken Career Campus.

43 Students & 26 Mentors Actively Participating!



THIS YEAR'S PROJECT

Our featured design project this year is an event center.

Our students are being asked to design a new event center located in an existing shell space in Tallmadge, Ohio. They will be tasked with layout, design, MEP, the event center's name, entertainment, construction cost, and schedule. Our students will present their final projects at our Year End Banquet.



SAVE THE DATE! - FALL FUNDRAISER - SEPTEMBER 17

Join us for our 2nd annual Top Golf Fundraiser!

Help us support another great year of mentorship for the ACE Mentor Program of Greater Akron-Canton! All funds raised through ticket sales and donations help raise money for student scholarships and to support the program. Your donation is tax-deductible.

**Thursday, September 17, 2026
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
600 Swartz Rd., Akron, Ohio 44319**



More details will be sent in our newsletter and email blasts soon!

Want to join our mailing list?

Email Barbie at akroncantonoh@acementor.org.



2025 - 2026 SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS

Since our affiliate's inception in 2017, we have awarded over \$210,000 in scholarships to 50 students with an additional \$38,000 in ACE National Scholarships. Our most recent scholarship award winners:

Ball State University:

- Noah Rickle - Architecture

Kent State University:

- Blessing Akinditan - Architecture
- Ella Kamyszek - Architecture
- Ashna Rai - Architecture

The University of Akron:

- Zachary Fisher - Civil Engineering
- David Htoo - Auto / Mechanical Engineering
- Larry Mackey III - Mechanical Engineering

University of Cincinnati:

- Cassandra Bomba - Urban Planning

University of Mount Union:

- Miracle Eslich - Electrical Engineering

In an effort to see our alumni through their college careers, we have been able to award over \$18,000 in Alumni Scholarships. Our most recent \$2,000 Alumni Scholarship recipients:

The Ohio State University:

- Peter VanBlargan - Civil Engineering

Stark State College:

- Nyiemah Wahid - Civil Engineering

The University of Akron:

- Amir Stokes - Mechanical Engineering
- Franco Virola - Mechanical Engineering

University of Cincinnati:

- Reese Caraboolad - Mechanical Engineering

Comments from our 2025 Alumni Scholarship Winners:

"I think it's important for young people to be mentored because we need guidance in staying on the path to success. Some young people might not know what they want to do in life or are waiting on what the next step is in life and (they) may need guidance with that."

- Nyiemah Wahid



"My ACE experience has benefited me by helping me obtain connections with mentors from Hasenstab Architects. ACE has helped me become familiar with processes before being hired by showing the construction documents at our designated meeting times after school. Since I was already exposed to the drawings, it helped me make out basic drawing fundamentals during my training stages in becoming a co-op at WHS Engineering."

- Reese Caraboolad



"My experience at ACE working with other students as well as mentors allowed me to feel more confident in how to navigate our team dynamic allowing us to complete all of our assignments on time and to the best of our ability."

- Amir Stokes



"This program gave me the chance to work on hands-on projects, ask questions, and build confidence in my abilities. It also showed me the value of teamwork and communication in the industry. That early exposure played a major role in preparing me for my current internship at ODOT and helped shape my goals for the future. Having mentors who believed in me made a lasting impact, and I hope to one day do the same for others entering the field."

- Franco Virola



Thank you to our college partnerships at Kent State University, Stark State College, The University of Akron, and the University of Mount Union for matching our scholarships for our students!

SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION - THANK YOU!

Mentors and Representative Firms:

- Chris Bader - GPD Group
- Chad Bradley - GTA
- Andrew Brown - FormWright
- Brian Call - PTA Engineering
- Mark Diekmann - Hasenstab Architects
- Elizabeth Ellis - Kent State University
- Lorie Feudner - ODOT
- Kaleshia Fletcher - The Timken Company
- Hanna Gage - OHM Advisors
- Amy Harmon - Scheeser Buckley Mayfield
- Emily Holman - Hasenstab Architects
- Eleanor Huntley - SoL Harris / Day Architecture
- Evan Krinock - CEC
- Nick Loukas - Canton City Engineering
- Garrett Mong - Beaver Constructors
- Makenzie Morehead - The University of Akron
- Aaron Musser - CESO
- Ben Rantilla - Hasenstab Architects
- Brian Rentsch - Turner Construction Company
- Justin Rorrer - OHM Advisors
- Caitlin Russell - Environmental Design Group
- Nana Sakai - Kent State University
- Joyce Seal - Ohio Desk
- Peter Strawman - Summit Construction Company
- Sara Stucky Sayner - Stucky Sayner Architects
- Brianna Swezey - Wayne Homes
- Nyiemah Wahid - Stark State College

Academy Coaches & Teacher Champions:

Akron Early College High School

- Jennifer McKenna

Canton City Schools:

- William Small
- Chad Weaver

Ellet CLC:

- Tracey Bowman
- Monica Sprain

Firestone CLC:

- Tracy Bess-Wilmington
- Kim Hackett
- Cassandra Hanna

Garfield CLC:

- Clayton Cundiff
- Jacquelyn Harkness
- Matt Zantow

2025 - 2026 Board of Directors:

- Matt Sibila - Coon Restoration & Sealants, Chair
- Peter Strawman - Summit Construction Company, Past Chair
- Jeremy Michael - Sikich, Treasurer
- Barbie O. - ACE Affiliate Director
- Lexi Barnett - Shook Construction
- Chad Bradley - GTA
- Amber Duco - Hasenstab Architects
- Dana Mitchell - Prime AE Group
- Don Obermeier - CESO
- Chris Ploskunak - Thomarios
- Dan Sager - Ruhlin Construction
- Sara Stucky Sayner - Stucky Sayner Architects
- Christopher Van Blargan - Kisling, Nestico & Redick
- Shane Weiford - Welty Enterprises



2025 - 2026 Sponsors:



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
AKRON-CANTON OHIO

Thank You

S P O N S O R S

2025 - 2026

GRANT SUPPORTERS	BANQUET SPONSORS
   	 
PLATINUM ANNUAL   	
GOLD ANNUAL     	 
SILVER ANNUAL       	
BRONZE ANNUAL        	IN KIND 

A very special THANK YOU to the Marketing and Event Planning Committees!