



05·27·2026

**Annual Scholarship
& Mentor Awards**

Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction, & Engineering



A ONE-OF-A-KIND LEARNING EXPERIENCE.



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

A FUTURE BUILT BY ALL, FOR ALL.

With a mission to excite, engage, and educate students in pursuit of careers in architecture, engineering, and construction, our work is led by mentors, driven by students. Through generous support, we have helped thousands of students from diverse backgrounds across the country reach new heights and discover new career pathways to a bigger, brighter future.

INFO@ACEMENTOR.ORG
ACEMENTOR.ORG



Program Agenda

I. Welcome

Daniel Thornton, AIA
Associate Principal / Studio Leader, JCJ Architecture
President, ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut

II. Professional Women in Construction

Donation & Scholarship Program
Presented by: Maria Loitz, Salas O'Brien

III. ACE Distinguished Mentor Awards

Joseph Geffert, Southport Engineering
Presented by: Emily Donovan, Turner Construction Company

Michael Lombardi, The S/L/A/M Collaborative
Presented by: Matthew Burnett, Salas O'Brien

IV. Michael Higgins Scholarship Award

Aleksandra Fedorov, Trumbull High School
Presented by: Daniel Thornton, AIA, JCJ Architecture, and Emily Donovan, Turner Construction Company

V. Student Presentation: Net Zero Data Center

Presented by: Aleksandra Fedorov, Trumbull High School

VI. Scholarship Awards

Presented by: Daniel Thornton, AIA, JCJ Architecture

Raheem Barclay, Bloomfield High School
Ryan Bogle, Bloomfield High School
Annabelle Conroy, Newtown High School
Niranjan Rajesh Kumar, Farmington High School

VII. Closing Remarks

Daniel Thornton, AIA, JCJ Architecture



70+
AFFILIATES

- At the **70+ local affiliates**, ACE Mentor Programs actively engage with their communities, bringing together students, educators, and industry professionals.
- The **15-session** after school program is offered **free** of charge.

5K
MENTORS

- ACE's **5,000 volunteer professionals** give back to their communities while also developing the skills it takes to become a leader in their firm.
- The estimated annual value of their in-kind services totals **\$22.4 million**.

37M
DOLLARS

- Since its start, ACE has awarded more than **\$37 million in scholarships** to students intending to study industry-related fields in college or enter a skilled trades training program.
- In 23-24, **over 1,000 students** (including alums) received nearly **\$4.5 million** in scholarships.

12K
STUDENTS

- ACE Mentor guides more than **12,000 high school students** down the career path that is right for them each year.
- **41%** of ACE Mentor seniors going into higher ed are **1st generation** (27% nationwide: NCES).
- More than **700 high school students** are participating in paid Summer Workplace Experiences and Summer Camps.
- Over **40%** of ACE students identify as women and **70%** identify as people of color.

1.5K
ALUMNI

- Through the **Transformative Partners Program**, ACE provides access to higher education resources and ongoing support services from post-secondary education all the way through to career.
- Each year between **1,500 and 2,000 ACE alumni** enter the ACE industry as full-time employees.

Distinguished Mentor Awards



Joseph J. Geffert, Southport Engineering

Joe Geffert joined Southport Associates in 2007 to increase the firm's capability in electrical and fire alarm system engineering. Prior to Southport, Joe worked for nearly two decades in nationally renowned engineering consulting firms. Southport Associates joined NV5 Global in December of 2024 which enhanced their ability to serve clients nationwide by integrating the expertise of their mechanical and electrical engineering professionals and expanding service delivery through NV5's cohesive networks of regional and local offices.

Joe specializes in the engineering design of electrical distribution systems, controls, fire alarm, emergency generation systems, UPS and data centers including power conditioning systems. Joe has undertaken project-based work in the financial, industrial, commercial, hospitality, restaurant and residential market sectors. Joe has extensive experience in existing buildings, including due diligence investigations relating to existing building electrical distribution systems along with designs of emergency generation systems with regards to electrical loading, system reliability, exposures to single point failures and code compliance. Joe is responsible for overseeing multi-discipline projects including the coordination of electrical, mechanical, fire protection, plumbing, fire alarm, structural, civil, geotechnical, environmental and architectural services. Joe has a B.S. degree in electrical engineering.

Joe started with the ACE mentor program when Charlie Thornton, the founding principal of Thornton-Tomassetti and the founder of ACE, mentioned that they were starting a Connecticut chapter and he should get involved. Joe mentored in New Haven for many years where he made many long standing relationships then took a break for a few years while raising their family with his wife, Mary. Just a few years ago, Joe heard from a colleague/friend that the Bridgeport chapter was looking for mentors and he happily rejoined. The teamwork of the mentors and partnership with the students is something that keeps everyone coming back.



Michael Lombardi, The S/L/A/M Collaborative

Michael Lombardi is an Associate Design Professional at SLAM Collaborative with eight years of experience in the design industry. He also works as a real estate agent on the side.

Michael earned his Master of Architecture degree from Roger Williams University in 2018 with minors in Business and Art History. He has been involved with the ACE Mentor Program for the past eight years, supporting and mentoring students interested in architecture, construction, and engineering.

Outside of work, he enjoys kayaking, spending time outdoors, and taking his dog Penny for walks.

Scholarship Awards



Aleksandra Fedorov, Trumbull High School

Princeton University

Major: Civil & Environmental Engineering



Raheem Barclay, Bloomfield High School

Princeton University

Major: Architecture and Civil Engineering



Ryan Bogle, Bloomfield High School

University of Connecticut, Storrs

Major: Mechanical Engineering



Niranjan Rajesh Kumar, Farmington High School

Purdue University

Major: Industrial Engineering



Annabelle Conroy, Newtown High School

Roger Williams University, Cummings School of Architecture

Major: Architecture

Minor: Construction Management and Psychology

Data Harbor



Site Selection

100 Bateman Way, Stamford, CT

We selected this site for the data center purpose because of its proximity to major urban centers, about an hour east of New York City, a major financial and data hub. Stamford is often called the "Sixth Borough" and is in a very affluent part of Connecticut. The city of Stamford has 5-6 data centers already, and Southern Connecticut is aiming to construct more data centers to support the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Governor Ned Lamont has highlighted Stamford, CT specifically as one of the hubs to develop in. In terms of aiding our Net-Zero mission, the proximity to the Long Island Sound is crucial for processes such as seawater reverse osmosis desalination, which harnesses energy from water and cools the water to be pumped throughout the building. The wind patterns of the Sound are also beneficial to wind technologies.

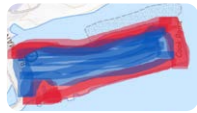
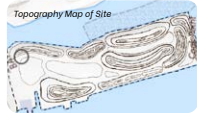


14 acres
Approx 470 ft wide and 1500 ft long

Site Research

Soil Analysis, Flood Analysis, Community Context

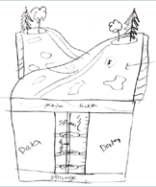
This site is located on the Long Island Sound in Stamford, CT. It sits at the mouth of the Rippowam/Mill River, with an average depth of 15m. It is located within the Shippam area of Stamford, with close proximity to downtown shopping and restaurant areas. However, its proximity to Long Island Sound also means that there is some risk for flooding, with elevation being 3 meters from sea level on the site. The site is mostly flat, and the soil is composed of sandy loam. This soil type has a very high drainage and remains stable in wet conditions. It is a part of the Haven series, which is sandy soil that is a result of glacial activity in the area long ago.



Design Process

1 Concept Mapping

Since most data centers are a large rectangle that house thousands of data servers, we knew that typical bubble diagramming for function would be redundant for this design process. Our main goal became to make this structure as interesting as possible. Looking to precedent research, we initially explored the idea of an underground data center with an above ground park.



Impression Tai Chi Theater

Precedent Research

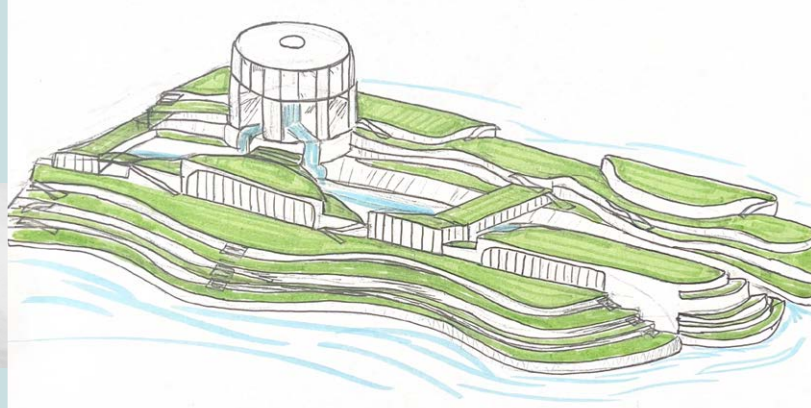
Before getting started with our design, we knew that the urban location of our data center would mean it would have to be as discreet as possible, without it being an eyesore. Additionally, to reach our net-zero goal, we would need to incorporate a lot of green spaces within the design. We looked to earth-shelter buildings such as the Impression Tai Chi Theater, which is a deconstructivist building that focuses on harmony with the space around it. Building on that, we looked for ways to integrate our data center into the surrounding riverfront, and we looked to the Cincinnati Serpentine Walk as inspiration for that. The cascading, platform design was also something we wanted to integrate in the main part of our design.



Cincinnati Serpentine Walk

2 Wind Patterns

We knew we wanted a design that blended seamlessly into its environment, but also in a way that would be beneficial to our net-zero mission. We found that on the Long Island Sound, the winds typically blow northwest in the winter, which is when wind is at its peak, around 20-30 mph gusts. Our first design included a very flowy canyon-type design to mirror the natural patterns. We had the idea of a river flowing through this wind gap, which would be connected to the Long Island Sound and be used to pump cold water for data cooling.

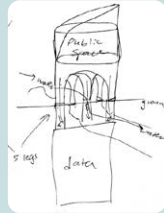


Conceptual Design (Hand Drawn)

Features terraced floors, waterfall with raised museum space

3 Initial Floor Plans

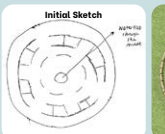
As we explored this canyon design, we also realized that an underground design like we had initially conceptualized would not be possible. This is due to the soil type and the depth of the water at this point. It would be too risky to excavate deep into this peninsula. However, we began to explore the idea of an artificial hill that could house the data center within it. These initial floor plans reflected that idea, through 3 floors that stack upon each other, to build a hilly area that could be used as a park.



Sketch that inspired public space design with columns

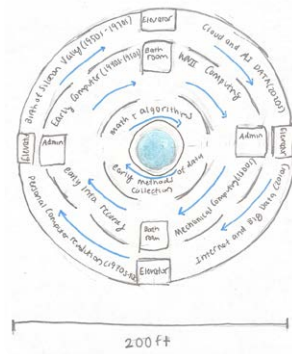
4 Functional Development

Our initial floor plans featured a circle in the northeast corner of the design. While we initially planned for it to be administrative facilities, we had the idea mid-design to include an interactive part of the building for the general public. Considering that the boom of data centers and the boom associated with AI is relatively new, we decided to create an informational center to educate people about data science. The museum takes on a circular shape, and is accessed from elevators in the columns below (as depicted in the conceptual design). The museum/informational center will feature exhibits exploring the history of data science, moving chronologically from the inside out. We took inspiration from traditional labyrinths, as they are places to walk through and meditate, unlike mazes which have one fixed path. This symbolizes the complex development of data science and the many uses of data science, which will be explored through this museum.



Initial Sketch

Labyrinth Inspiration



200 ft

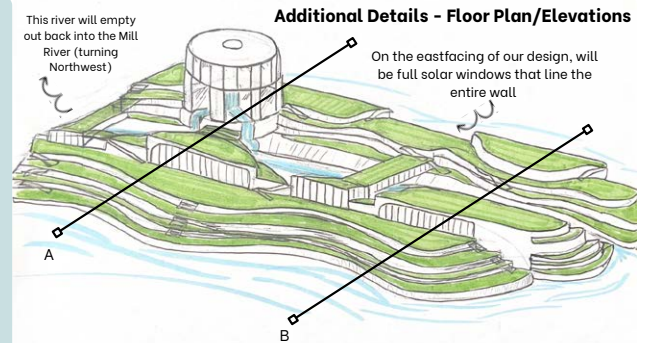
5 Museum Design

Floor Plan

As you go around the spiral of history that is data collection, you get twisted and whirled in resembling the water that is flowing around the building, eventually flowing out into a beautiful waterfall that will be able to be observed by the public. The museum is structured specifically with exhibits that spiral towards the center in chronological order. These exhibits explore the deep history of data collection, as you unravel back in time to see how we made it all the way to Cloud and AI Data, such as the data centers we see today.

6 Internal Elevations

These elevations represent slices of our design in two critical places. There will be turbines underneath the river that will generate electricity which will be used to offset our carbon footprint. The cooling systems will be harbored on the bottom floor and then will be pumped throughout the entire building.



Additional Details - Floor Plan/Elevations

This river will empty out back into the Mill River (turning Northwest)

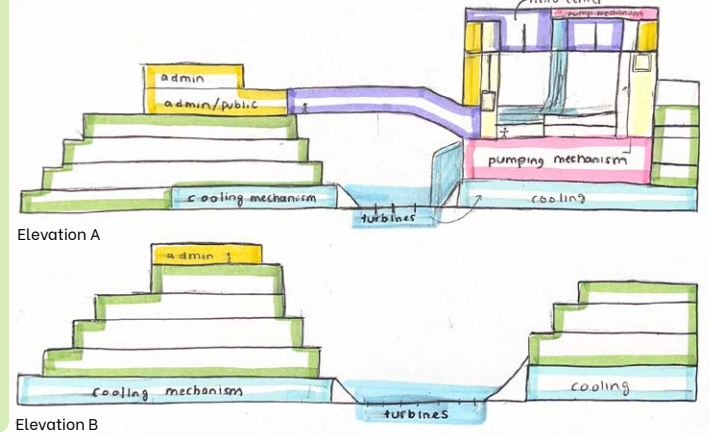
On the eastfacing of our design, will be full solar windows that line the entire wall

NET ZERO Data Center

1 Solar Energy

We plan to incorporate solar absorbent windows into our information center design. Solar absorbent windows are a new technology which functions the same as your typical window, simply covered in a photovoltaic glaze that's able to harness solar energy and convert it into renewable energy. These windows are also equipped with sensors that can detect and manage energy use within our building. These windows will span an entire major wall of our design (east facing wall), as well as encase the museum/info center, cover the admin areas, and encase the bridges across the gap. Any excess electrical energy that is not used up by these solar windows will be returned to the electrical grid, helping us achieve our net zero promise. Additionally, there will be solar panels on the roof of the museum, which will ultimately serve to convert more solar energy into renewable energy (via more traditional sources). Most traditional solar panels are able to convert around 17-23% of solar energy into renewable energy. Commercial-grade ones used for businesses and other massive facilities are typically much stronger than your average solar panel, and thus, are capable of converting significant amounts of energy.

Internal Elevations (corresponding to diagram above)



Elevation A

Elevation B

2 Wind Energy - Darrius Turbines



Darrius turbine

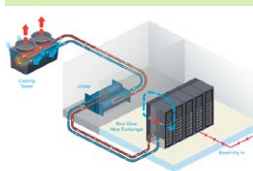
Wind garden inspiration

Incorporating vertical axis wind turbines, specifically Darrius turbines, within our data center design will allow for increased torque and power output with average wind speeds. With the omnidirectional design of the rotor blades allowing for wind to be picked up from any direction, it's an efficient energy resource, along with environmentally friendly. Their size and compactibility pose little threat to animals, and the quiet noise emissions won't disturb surrounding businesses, eradicating the threat of noise pollution.



Turbine Locations

3 Hydro Powered Cooling



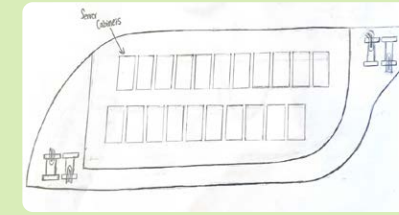
Our data center will also be well equipped with server cabinets that'll house any necessary systems, such as our routers and patch panels. These systems will be powered using the energy resources described above, and cooling will occur with the freshwater collected from the Reverse-Osmosis Desalination mechanisms. The cold water will flow from a cooling tower, through industrial-grade pipes into a chiller. The water cools the air in the chiller, and the cold air travels downwards through raised floors, is pressurized, delivered to the cold aisles and pushed out in front of the server racks through perforated tiles. The water then flows back through the pipes, to the waterfall to be cooled again. The hot air is pushed through the hot aisles, travels upward and returns to the cooling unit.

4 Hydro Energy - Recycled Water

Our use of recycled water, as demonstrated in the waterfall aspect of our final design, holds significant environmental benefits. The water flows in the canal from the sound, into underground pipes built from galvanized steel, and into industrial-grade Reverse-Osmosis Desalination machines. They'll apply pressure onto the water, and while the semipermeable membrane will allow fresh water through, concentrated saltwater will be pushed through another tube and used to create salinity gradient energy, another powersource with zero pollutant emission. The freshwater will travel through pipes and serve to cool our data center and provide additional plumbing to information center facilities, while the concentrated saltwater will power our MEP systems through reverse electrodialysis (RED), which mixes two solutions with different salinity to produce renewable energy. The seawater, once it's served its intended purpose, then flows back into our galvanized pipes, down the waterfall, through cooling tanks and is then pumped back into the chillers to be used again.

5 Server Layouts

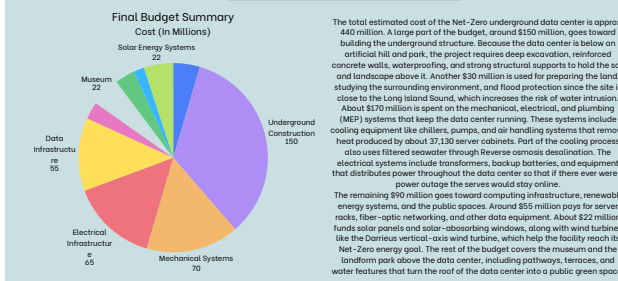
Our server cabinets are estimated to take up around 204,219.47 sqft of our overall plot of land in total. Taking into account the average size of a singular server cabinet (73.5" height, 19" width, 42" deep), we estimate we'll need around 37,130 total server cabinets. This estimation takes the calculated surface area of a singular server cabinet (798 square inches) and, when you convert it to square feet (5.5sqft²), you're able to divide this by the estimated square footage that the cabinets will take up. Each server cabinet holds 42 U (units) total.



Schedule

Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
2027				
2028				
2029				
2030				
2031				
2032				

Final Budget Summary



The total estimated cost of the Net-Zero underground data center is approx. 440 million. A large part of the budget, around \$150 million, goes toward building the underground structure. Because the data center is below an artificial hill and park, the project requires deep excavation, reinforced concrete walls, waterproofing, and strong structural supports to hold the soil and landscape above it. Another \$30 million is used for preparing the land, studying the surrounding environment, and flood protection since the site is close to the Long Island Sound, which increases the risk of water intrusion. About \$270 million is spent on the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems that keep the data center running. These systems include cooling equipment like chillers, pumps, and air handling systems that remove heat produced by about 37,130 server cabinets. Part of the cooling process also uses filtered seawater through Reverse osmosis desalination. The electrical systems include transformers, backup batteries, and equipment that distributes power throughout the data center so that if there ever were a power outage the servers would stay online. The remaining \$90 million goes toward computing infrastructure, renewable energy systems, and the public spaces. Around \$55 million pays for server racks, fiber-optic networking, and other data equipment. About \$22 million funds solar panels and solar-absorbing windows, along with wind turbines like the Darrius vertical-axis wind turbine, which help the facility reach its Net-Zero energy goal. The rest of the budget covers the museum and the landform park above the data center, including pathways, terraces, and water features that turn the roof of the data center into a public green space.

Challenges We Faced

When we first began our initial design, we struggled to come up with a way we could incorporate liquid cooling systems into our data center without causing harm to the surrounding area. That's where the idea to incorporate the waterfall along with the Reverse-Osmosis Desalination mechanisms, Recycling water while simultaneously using the soil to generate renewable energy. Coming up with the overall design also proved to be a challenge. We were torn between an above-ground design and an underground one. Both had their pro's and con's, but in the end we decided that an underground design would assist with cooling, while also freeing up the surrounding area for not just our turbines, but trees and other plants as well. Further aiding our net-zero commitment.

What We Learned

Throughout this project, we've gained valuable knowledge on not just the fields of architecture and engineering, but how to prioritize sustainability in our designs. A lesson that's extremely relevant to the times we live in, now more than ever. We've worked through challenges, and learned to design around necessary mechanisms that can't be displaced. Educating ourselves on different methods of sustainability, and ways to produce renewable energy with minimal negative impact and infinite positive impact has proven to be invaluable. And the knowledge we've taken away here will help us tenfold in our future careers.

Greater New Haven Chapter

Mentors

Andrew Barnett, Pickard Chilton
Lauren Blonde Pickard Chilton
Connor DiNallo, Langan
Erin Kesegi, Hoffmann Architects + Engineers
Hillary Kossou, FCArchitects
Arthur Lam, Pickard Chilton

Mary Le, Pickard Chilton
Jason Levy, Patriquin Architects
Aurora Perreault, Patriquin Architects
Grace Rykard Pickard Chilton
Dhyan Sharma, Pickard Chilton
Aaron Wagnitz, Pelli Clarke & Partners

Students

Amity High School

Sam Feliconio
Evan Lennon

Branford High School

Cindy Jayanetti
Masen Mervine
Shaurya Shah
Arav Sharma

Engineering and Science University Magnet School

Sadrah Mohammed Ali
Arav Patel
Cole Perrone

Foran High School

David Mullenix

Guilford High School

Samar Maula

Hamden High School

Henry Zebrowski

Jonathan Law High School

Avery Oliveira

Joseph A. Foran

Julian Bruckner

New Haven Academy

Theo Bloom
Lucas Silva

Newtown High School

Annabelle Conroy

Platt Technical High School

Rylie Finch
Danyalis T. Perez-Cumba

Stratford High School

Chelsea Powell

West Haven High School

Sofia Bongiorno-Nucci
Laila Carter
Gabriel Castillo



ENVISION YOURSELF IN A FULFILLING CAREER...

To learn more
about ACE Mentor
Scan Here:



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

LEARN FROM PROFESSIONALS

WIN SCHOLARSHIPS

GET PAID INTERNSHIPS

@ACEMENTOR



Greater Bridgeport Chapter

Bridgeport Planning Committee

Emily Donovan, Turner Construction
Dan Condon, Turner Construction
Joe Geffert, Southport Engineering
Ryan Rosenthal, Antinozzi Associates
Tim Coda, Pavarini
Amy Krasko, Gilbane
Angelica Hermanto, Altieri

Mentors

Architecture & Interiors:

Antinozzi Associates

Richard Fagan
Kevin Gatzke
Ryan Rosenthal

Caple Architecture

William Caple

Civil Engineering:

Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc.

Timothy C. Griffing

Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Engineering:

Southport Engineering Associates, PC

Joe Geffert

Altieri Sebor Wieber, LLC

Zachary Chaves
Angelica Hermanto
Trevor Gasperetti

Structural Engineering:

DeStefano & Chamberlain, Inc.

Herbert F. Holz

Fuss & O'Neill

Richard Boggs



Construction Management:

Gilbane Building Company

Amy Krasko

Pavarini Construction

Tim Coda
Luke Colas
James Dunn
Matthew Howard
Katlyn Tracey

Turner Construction Co.

Daniel Condon
Samuel Phillips
Emily Donovan
Anthony Salta
Derek Zero

Greater Bridgeport Chapter

Group 1 – Utopia

Alayna Diaz
Malachi Faulk
Bryce Fortt-Robinson
Daniel Miskowiak
Ryan Mullen
Gideon Rodney

Group 2 – Diverse Designs

George Joseph
Nicole Massaria
Isabela Ospina
Xiomara Pina
Ella Stumph

Group 3 – BPT Design Studio

Isabella Castano
Andriana Elkins
Melanny Linval
Willam Londono
Alena Nomani
Aniya Miranda
Dior Whyte

CIRT National Team 1 – Net Zero Data Center

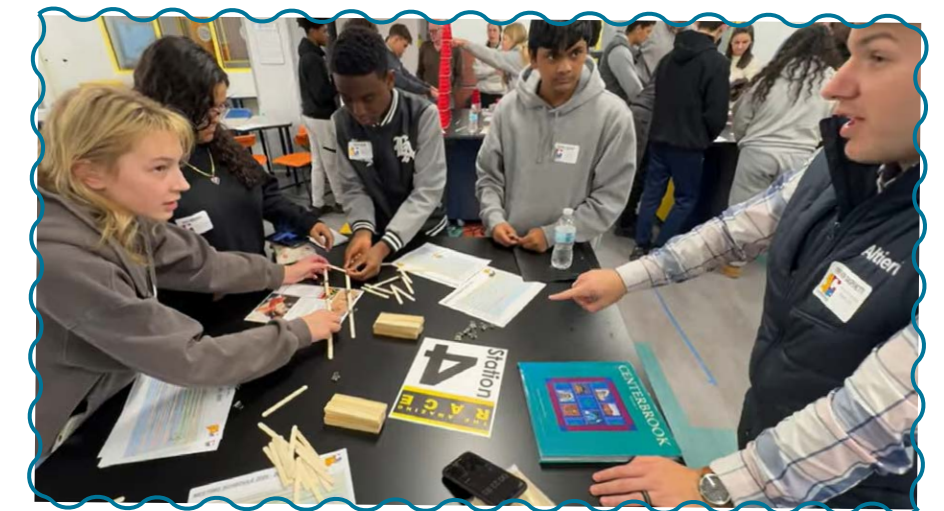
Yashita Chaudhary
Aleksandra Fedorov
Eddie Love
Charlotte Rotelli
Lindsay Cruz-Sierra

CIRT National Team 2 – Modular Enabled Build

Yizel Almanzar
Oliver Corvera
Orville Ferguson
Kovida Katru
Coleman Perkins

Participating High Schools

Bridge Academy
Fairchild Wheeler
Fairfield Warde High School
Harding High School
Joel Barlow High School
Joseph A Foran High
Kolbe Cathedral High School
Mizizi Academy
New Canaan High School
Platt Technical High School
Stratford High School
Trumbull High School
Warren Harding High School



Greater Hartford Chapter

Advisory Board Members

Matthew Burnett, Salas O'Brien, Chair

Nabila Ahmed, Tecton Architects

Jesus Amado, Pratt & Whitney

Jessica Barrow, JCJ Architecture

Thomas Bronson, The S/L/A/M Collaborative

Alison DiVenere, JCJ Architecture

Brittney Ethier, Newfield Construction

Alison Frost, Tecton Architects

Sydney Lewis, Arcadis

Christine McPhee, Thornton Tomasetti

Sharon Plummer, Bloomfield Public Schools

Dan Thornton, JCJ Architecture



Greater Hartford Chapter

Team One Mentors

JCJ Architecture

Alison DiVenere
*Jessica Barrow
Dustin Lombardi

Salas O'Brien

Jason Bielez

Thornton Tomasetti

* Christine McPhee

PES Structural Engineers

Geoffrey Sandberg

CES

Matthew Olszewski

Weston & Sampson

Jonathan Tunsky

Connecticut DEEP

Sandra Ruiz

Associated Construction

Andrew Winget

Team One Students

Farmington High School

Jenita Ambookkan
Anvi Jain
Niranjan Rajesh Kumar

Connecticut River Academy

Jansiel Rodriguez
Giovanni Cordero
Sarah Hamam
Steven Rivera

Berlin High School

Brendan Lee
Conard High School
Kevin Quach
Hall High School
Shah Sheikh

New England Jewish Academy

Jonah Resnick

Pathways Academy of Technology & Design

Cassidy Furze

Team Two Mentors

Salas O'Brien

* Matthew Burnett
Kevin Hernandez
Mike Goulette

Gilbane Building Company

Ryan Osak
Stephanie Greenman

The S/L/A/M Collaborative

* Thomas Bronson
Mike Lombardi

Team Two Students

Granby Memorial

Gavin Baron

Bloomfield High School

Raheem Barclay
Daylin McKim
Khalia Gordon
Ryan Bogle
Jayden Bennett

CREC Academy of Aerospace

AnnaLai Navaroli

Global Experience Magnet School

Solomon Fulse

Pioneer Valley Christian Academy

Charles Funchion

Enfield High School

Menna Zuwail

Team Three Mentors

Tecton Architects

*Nabila Ahmed
*Alison Frost

Hallam-ICS

Mark Felgate

SKF Structural Engineers

William Fluhr
Nathan Bedard

Fuss & O'Neill Inc.

Keith Goodrow
Tara Sweeney

Team Three Students

Somers High School

Justin Felch
Cora Dolben
Michael Mendoza-Cruz

Bacon Academy

River Bohn

Cheshire High School

Sajida Yuzofzai
Ellington High School
Anyah Brown

Manchester High School

Loriann Clarke

Newington High School

Jay Garibnawaj
Luke Bacaoco

Conard High School

Azan Jan

Team Four Mentors

Pratt & Whitney

*Jesus Amado
Elizabeth Archer

Arcadis

*Sydney Lewis

Tighe & Bond

Andrew White
Steven Gomes

Wendel Companies

Linda Blaszk

Team Four Students

Middletown High School

Mia-Lillian Powell
DaShawn Salyers
Dynasia NiiAryee
Savion Webb
David Snell



* indicates Team Leaders

New Britain Chapter

Mentors

Newfield Construction

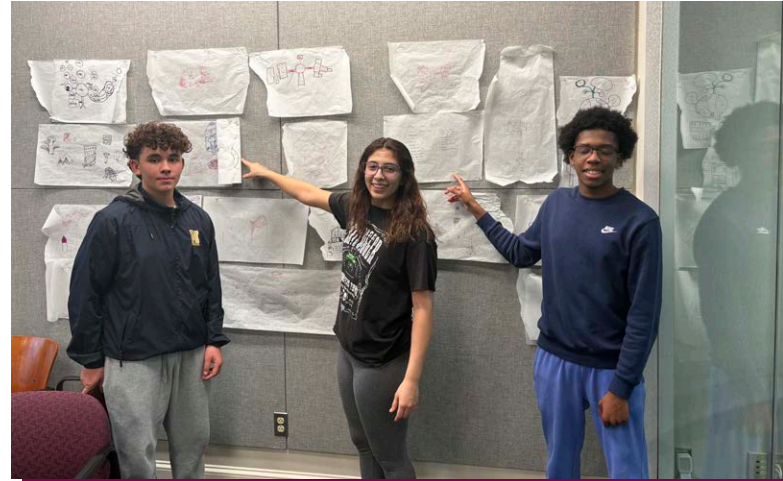
Ben Chasse
Brittney Ethier

Kaestle Boos Associates

Amy Moro
Lance Green

van Zelm Engineers

Steve Krawczynski



Students

Newington High School

Lucas Gomes
Juliana Flores
Xavier Giraud
Tyler Tinker

New Britain High School

Josivan Rodriguez
Anfernee Thomas
Joshau Henriquez
Jazzeal Billie



Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Daniel Thornton, AIA
JCJ Architecture

Treasurer: Alexander Murphy, P.E.
Berkshire Hathaway

Secretary: Steven R. Kolodziej, Esq.
The Law Office of Steven R. Kolodziej, LLC

CHAPTER BOARD CHAIRS

Bridgeport

Emily Donovan
Turner Construction Company

Hartford

Matthew Burnett, P.E.
Salas O'Brien

DIRECTORS

Christopher Cardany, P.E.
Langan Engineering + Environmental Services

Benjamin Berger, Esq.
DBL Law CT

Taylor Crouse
Gilbane Building Company

Chris Fryxell
Associated Builders & Contractors of CT, Inc.

Robert Amatuli, AIA
Tecton Architects, PC (Retired)

Maria A. Loitz, FSMPS, CPSM
Salas O'Brien



New Britain

Brittney Ethier
Newfield Construction

New Haven

Andrew Barnett, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Pickard Chilton

Ryan Osak
Gilbane Building Co.

Frederick Hedberg, Esq., P.E.
Robinson & Cole LLP

John Scheib, AIA, LEED AP
TSKP Studio

Joel D. Smith, RA
City of Bridgeport

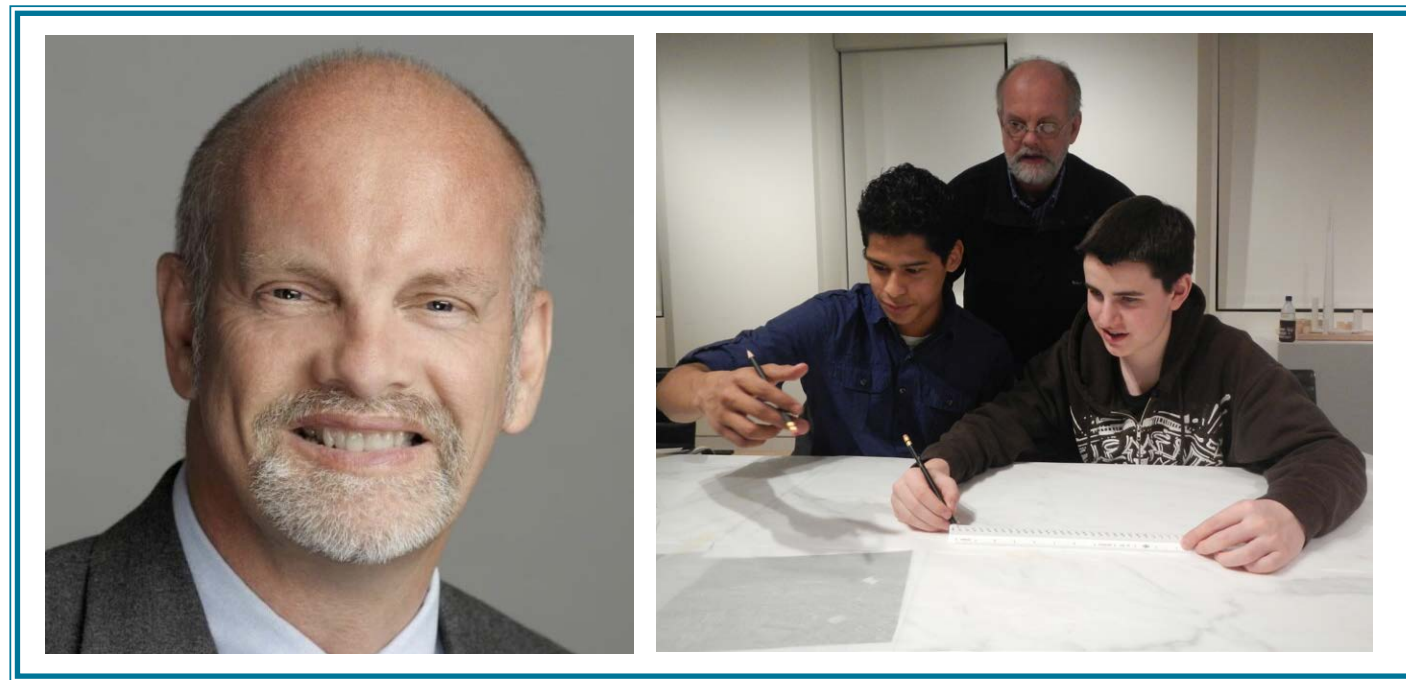
Kathryn Gagnon, PE
Langan Engineering + Environmental Services

Steve S. Krawczynski, P.E.
van Zelm Engineers



The Michael Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund

in memoriam



Michael H. Higgins (1960-2023)

A passionate engineer, Mike was a dedicated mentor of the ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut for more than 20 years, working to engage, excite, and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction. He always went above and beyond, enthusiastically giving back to his community while mentoring the next generation of design and construction professionals. The Michael Higgins Memorial Scholarship was established to honor his memory. Donations can be made via PayPal.



Sponsorships & Donations

The success of the ACE Mentor Program is dependent upon the support of our sponsors throughout the year. In addition to the dedication of the mentors, giving of their time and resources, ACE has awarded more than \$625,000 in scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a college degree in architecture, engineering, construction or related field.

Now, more than ever, your support of the ACE Mentor Program is needed. Sponsorships are a great way to support the program and encourage today's high school students to pursue a career in the A/E/C industry.

For more information, please contact Dan Thornton, connecticut@acementor.org.





University of Pennsylvania, Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology

Congratulations to this year's winners!
We wish our ACE Connecticut students and fellow mentors all the best.

van Zelm Engineers has been a proud supporter of ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut since its founding, providing mentors, board leadership and more.

VAN ZELM HEYWOOD & SHADFORD, INC.
10 Talcott Notch Farmington, CT 06032-1800
Phone: (860) 284-5064
www.vanzelm.com



Engineered for Impact™

Salas O'Brien enhances the human experience through engineering and technical consulting. Our diverse and integrated team is engineered for impact, understanding projects holistically and delivering cohesive solutions that are reliable, resilient, versatile, and efficient.

Proud to support the ACE Mentor Program.

salasobrien.com



April 2024 Project Tour
Bullard-Havens Technical High School



Committed to
Engaging,
Inspiring, and
Mentoring
Future Leaders

Through our partnership with the ACE Mentor Program, we are proud to be Building More Than Buildings®.

Turner

is proud to sponsor the

ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut Scholarship & Mentor Awards Dinner!

A huge *congratulations* to the Mentors of the Year
and the Scholarship Recipients!



TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

6 Corporate Drive - Ste. 820
Shelton, CT 06484



JCJ is proud to support
the ACE Mentor Program!

JCJARCHITECTURE

JCJ.COM

AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

Congratulations, Niranjan!
It's been a pleasure having you
on our team. Wishing you all
the best in your next chapter!





PAVARINI

From academic facilities to advanced life sciences labs, Pavarini North East proudly supports the ACE Mentor Program, connecting students with professionals while providing scholarship opportunities.

@stobuildinggroup  pavarini.com

Part of the STO Building Group family of builders. Pavarini North East is an equal opportunity employer in Stamford and New Haven, CT.



Congratulations
ACE Graduates!



Robinson+Cole

We are pleased to support the ACE Scholarship and Mentor Awards Dinner.

Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients!

Robinson+Cole, a leading law firm committed to people and progress, proudly champions ACE Mentor Program's mission to inspire future careers in architecture, engineering, and construction.

Frederick E. Hedberg | fhedberg@rc.com | 860.275.8237
www.rc.com

© 2026 Robinson & Cole LLP | Attorney Advertising



INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS



500 Purdy Hill Road Monroe Connecticut 06468
(203) 452-1331 FAX (203) 268-8103
mail@DiBlasi-Engrs.com www.DiBlasi-Engrs.com



PWC
CONNECTICUT

PWC-CT proudly supports the Connecticut ACE program through an annual contribution for ACE students pursuing careers in the A/E/C fields.

We consider it an honor to invest in the future of ACE graduates.

PWC-CT.ORG



thank you

PROGRAM SPONSORS

van Zelm Engineers

Turner Construction Company

Gilbane Building Company

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Professional Women In Construction, Connecticut Chapter

Connecticut Building Congress

GOLD SPONSORS

JCJ Architecture

Salas O'Brien

SILVER SPONSORS

Pavarini

BRONZE SPONSORS

DiBlasi Associates

Robinson & Cole

www.acementor.org