



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING



ANNUAL REPORT

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FL

2022-2023

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Dear Supporters:

2023 was a record year for ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida. Since the pandemic, we reached a new milestone in mentoring, engaging 190 students and 80 mentors weekly.

That's a testament to the commitment and compassion of our business partners, our financial supporters, our volunteers, along with our board and staff. We've added additional programming opportunities, made hard decisions and asked more from our supporters than ever. But the result of all that effort is undeniable.

The question is, *where do we go from here?*

Our board has spent the better part of 2022-23 laying out a new strategic plan in order to answer that question. And the answer is this: It's time to expand outreach and plan for growth in various ways.

As a youth mentoring program, we focus on the number of students served and scholarships awarded. Last year, we mentored at 11 locations and announced over \$74,000 in scholarships. That's a good benchmark, but it's not enough. The A-E-C industry continues to have labor shortages across our state and the entire country.

Looking ahead, ACE NEFL has strategic plans set in place to expand our reach in the following ways for 2023-2024:

- Plan for talent succession
- Track and engage alumni
- Continue to incorporate the Trades more fully into the program
- Expand to new schools
- Develop a financial model to achieve priorities

During this time of significant growth centered on expansion, our leadership and staff are focused on additional resources and opportunities for our students. I look forward to working with the new board members to provide exposure for additional Northeast Florida students to learn about Architectural, Construction and Engineering industry. Let's build up our future leaders together.

We know this vision is attainable if we work together.
Are you with us?



With appreciation,

Nicole Eubanks

Nicole Eubanks, Affiliate Director



LOCATIONS

**Atlantic Coast High School
Bartram Trail High School
Bishop Kenny High School
Creskide High School
Home School Team
Middleburg High School
Nease High School
Orange Park High School
Pedro Menendez High School
Riverside High School
Tocoi Creek High School**

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear ACE Supporters and Friends:

This past year, ACE continued to grow and develop into one of the best ACE affiliates in the country. With COVID essentially behind us, ACE was full steam ahead this past school year. Below are some of our 2022-2023 accomplishments:

- Our Executive Director, Nicole Eubanks, continues to be extremely effective in her role, and has become well known in Northeast Florida. She continues to push and help grow our program throughout the area.
- We continue to serve 11 schools (including our home school team) in the area and will be adding Paxon High School during the 2023-2024 school year.
- School expansion increased the number of students served from 160 to 190 and increased mentor participation from 70 to 85.
- Our fundraising efforts saw an increase of 51% in total contributions.
- We distributed \$74,000 in scholarships to 18 of our seniors and two Junior Mentors. One of our graduating seniors was selected for a national scholarship worth \$32,000 over the next four years.
- The Advisory Council led a strategic planning session this past year. The updated plan will improve our focus on: planning for talent and succession, tracking and engaging alumni, promoting and incorporating the trades more fully into the program, creating a tiered program to expand into new schools, and continuing to develop our financial model to achieve these strategic priorities.

As you can see, our affiliate is doing extremely well. We are very fortunate to have such great support from the students, teachers, mentors, committees, Board of Directors and most importantly our donors. This past year completed my term as Board Chair. It has been a privilege and honor to lead such a dedicated group of board members who put the interest of the program ahead of their own. I want to thank you all for your support. I am pleased to welcome Chad Boone into the role of Board Chair for the next two years.

Thank you,

Tom Grogan

Tom Grogan, PE, SE
Board Chairman
ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida



Tom Grogan (right) with Chad Boone
at the Year End Event, April 2023.

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FL



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.

The 2022-2023 program year was a success both in terms of students served and donations raised from industry partners, individuals and foundations. ACE NEFL increased our reach to 11 locations, serving 190 students weekly and awarded \$74,000 to high school seniors and two junior mentors, including a \$32,000 award from the CMiC Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship.

STAFF & COMMITTEES

Our board member and volunteers are organized into the following committees. Committee chairs, board members and staff are listed on page 5.

- Advisory Council
- Education Committee
- Finance Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Governance Committee
- Junior Council
- Mentor Committee
- Trades Committee
- Public Relations Committee



ACE NEFL Board of Directors, Advisory Members and Affiliate Director Strategic Planning Session

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 is a federation of more than 75 affiliates (chapters), operating in 38 states and Canada, and 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 1,450 high schools. The majority of ACE students (69%) are minority, and over 40% are female. One-quarter of ACE seniors entering college are first generation students.

More than 4,100 volunteer industry professionals mentor student teams through a 35-hour-long simulation of designing and constructing a project.

Approximately \$2.5 million in scholarships are awarded annually to high school seniors and alumni studying to pursue industry-related careers. ACE also offers students summer camp and internship opportunities.

2022-2023 STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

STAFF

Nicole Eubanks | Affiliate Director

OFFICERS

Tom Grogan, Chairman | Retired

Chad Boone, Vice Chairman | Meadows and Ohly

Amanda Mullins, Treasurer (Finance Chair) | Pivot CPAs

Stacy Ferguson, Secretary | Baptist Health

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Auld (Mentor Chair) | RS&H

Ray Austin | Foresight CGI

Lauren Atwell | Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors

Joseph Bove | Stellar

Carl Burdick | Bhide & Hall Architects

Joe DeMarco | Ryder Group

Judy Deshler (PR Chair) | The Haskell Company

Tracey Friley | The Haskell Company

Robert Jackson (Junior Council Chair) | The Haskell Company

David Rush | Charles Perry Partners

Tom Smith | W.W. Gay Mechanical

Samantha Spaniak | Hoefer Welker

David Yencarelli (Trades Chair) | American Electrical Contracting

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kathie Carswell | University of North Florida

Olivia Frick | LS3P Associates

Emily Hubbard | TLC Engineering Solutions

Kimberly Hansen | Baptist Health

Crystal Markley | USACE

Denise Ramsey | The Haskell Company

Ryan Sitnik (Fundraising Chair) | Gilbane Building Company

Michelle Tappouni (Governance Chair) | Tappouni Mechanical Services

Jacob Thurlow (Education Chair) | The Haskell Company

Karin Tucker Hoffman | First Coast Chapter of ABC

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Nyree Bowen-Tennant | Duval County Public Schools

Jill Fierle | Duval County Public Schools

Emily Harrison | St. Johns County School District

Kelly Mosley | Clay County District Schools

EDUCATION

BY THE NUMBERS

190

STUDENTS

85

MENTORS

20

SCHOLARSHIPS

8

FIELD TRIPS

\$74k

AWARDED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS

200+

SESSIONS

80

SPONSORS

11

LOCATIONS

2022-23 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This year's program was a success. We served 190 students across Northeast Florida, including 64 female students and 69 students from under-represented groups.

Students met for 15 weeks at 11 different location: Atlantic Coast HS, Bartram Trail HS, Bishop Kenny HS, Creekside HS, Middleburg HS, Nease HS, Orange Park HS, Pedro Menendez HS, Riverside HS Toco Creek HS and our Home School Team.

This year's request for proposals (RFP) competition had three topics to choose from and we had 23 teams compete.

- Community Support Facility (9 teams)
- City Park / Open Space (7 teams)
- School of the Future (4 teams)
- CIRT (3 national teams)



Middleburg High School



Bishop Kenny High School

ENGAGING STUDENTS

Our program is open to Northeast Florida high school students who have the curiosity and drive to learn about a career in design and construction — from contracting and engineering to architecture and landscaping. Currently, we serve students in Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties. To learn more about what to expect and how encourage a student to participate, visit our website:

www.acementor.org/northeast-fl



Creekside High School

CONSTRUCTION SITE VISITS

Students from all 11 locations had the opportunity to visit various active job sites and companies, participating in tours at the following locations:

- W.W. Gay Facility
- W.W. Gay Construction Site with Auld & White
- Gresham Smith Offices
- Boeing Hangar with Haskell
- Baptist Primary Care Beachwalk with Auld & White
- Innovation Construction Group (ICG) Plant
- Pulte Homes Offices
- Del Webb Nocatee with ICG



Boeing Hangar with Haskell | Bartram Trail High School



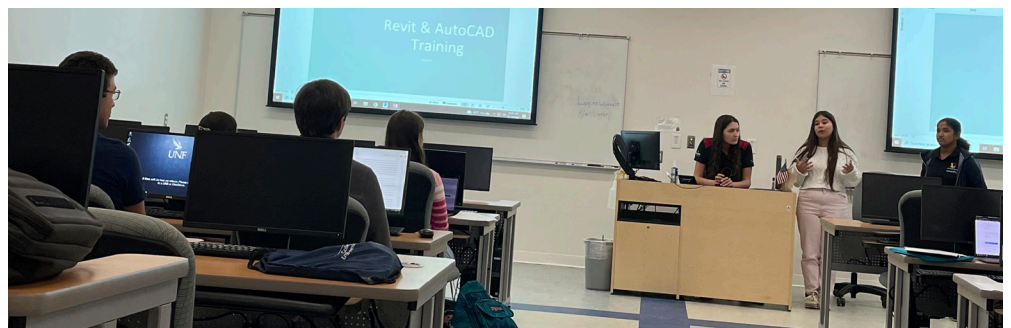
Gresham Smith Offices | Bishop Kenny High School



W.W. Gay Construction Site with Auld & White

TECHNOLOGY BOOTCAMP

At the second annual Technology Bootcamp, ACE Northeast Florida students were introduced to Solid Professor, Revit, AutoCAD and SketchUp. Students received instruction from SketchUp Visiting Professional Shawn Fink; ACE Mentor Program of America National Team Leaders from Creekside HS: Lauren Castillo, Kendall Reckamp and Erin Philip; and ACE Alumni and UNF Student Rebecca O'Neal. The students also heard from UNF College of Computing, Engineering & Construction (CCEC) students about programs they offer.



Technology Bootcamp 2023 | University of North Florida

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Twenty teams presented their final projects in front of jurors on April 28, 2023 at the Schultz Center. The winning teams for **Best Proposal** included Creekside High School Team #1 for School of the Future, Home School Team for City Park/Open Space, and Bishop Kenny High School Team #2 for Community Support Facility. The jurors awarded **Best Presentation** to three winning teams including Creekside High School Team #1 for School of the Future, Atlantic Coast High School for City Park/Open Space, and Creekside High School Team #2 for Community Support Facility. The final award of the day was for the **Best Overall Approach**, which combined the proposal and presentation scoring, was awarded to Creekside High School Team #2. View the full event press release: <https://www.acementor.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2023-ACE-Year-End-Event-PR.pdf>



2023 Year-End Presentation & Awards Ceremony



Home School Team | Best Proposal



Creekside HS Team #2 | Best Presentation & Best Overall



Bishop Kenny HS | Best Proposal



Creekside HS Team #1 | Best Proposal & Best Presentation



Atlantic Coast HS | Best Presentation

YEAR-END KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The Keynote Presentation at this year's ACE NEFL Year-End Event was delivered by Joe Coughlin, Project Manager at Baptist Health, and Denise Muth, Sr. Project Director at Haskell and ACE mentor at Riverside High School. They first presented an overview of the recently constructed 301,256 SF hospital for Baptist Medical Center in Clay County. Denise then illustrated how the construction industry provides tangible results for everyone by sharing the construction careers, challenges, benefits and salaries available right here in Northeast Florida.



SCHOLARSHIPS

ACE NEFL proudly announced the 2022-2023 scholarship awards to 18 high school seniors and two Junior Mentors. Student recipients from Clay, Duval and St. Johns County high schools demonstrated exceptional work ethic and relationship building with industry professionals. The total amount awarded was \$74,000, including the prestigious CMiC Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship.

View the full recipient list in our press release: <https://www.acementor.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2023-ACE-Year-End-Event-PR.pdf>



Lauren Castillo | CHS



Cash Horswill | ACHS



Creekside High School senior Kendall Reckamp, pictured above with her teacher Kevin

Davenport and ACE Lead Mentor Jacob Thurlow, was awarded a \$32,000 CMiC Allen Berg Memorial National Scholarship. Kendall participated with ACE NEFL for three years and plans on studying Civil Engineering in the fall.

Kendall and her teammates went to DC in 2022, where they placed second in the nation for their Strong + Sustainable design. This year, she was the team leader for the School of the Future national team.

DIVERSITY CELEBRATION

On December 6, 2022, Northeast Florida students attended a panel discussion and campus tour as part of our inaugural Diversity Celebration at UNF College of Computing, Engineering and Construction. The panel of architecture, engineering and construction industry professionals included:

- Richmond Wynn, PhD, VP and Chief Diversity Officer, UNF
- Chise Nicholson, Project Designer, Stellar
- Deborah Thompson, Owner and Consultant, DKT Consultants
- Amanda Polematidis, Energy Services Engineer, TLC Engineering
- Robert Jackson, Director of Engineering, Haskell
- Rebecca O'Neal, ACE Alumni & UNF Student

Thank you to NABWIC, NOMA, UNF and Junior Achievement for partnering with ACE NEFL to help plan the event and coordinate students. Event sponsors included: Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation, Baptist Health, Batson-Cook Construction, 1st DownTown Jax, Kajima Foundation and UNF College of Computing Engineering and Construction.



Diversity Celebration | Panel Discussion



Event Volunteers



Riverside High School

MENTORS

BECOME A MENTOR

As the demand for ACE continues to grow, additional mentors are needed. Mentors work together to guide students each week as they work on their team project. Email Mentor Chair, Jeff Auld (jeff.auld@rsandh.com) for questions regarding mentoring. Registration: <https://app.acementor.org/login>

ATLANTIC COAST HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Joseph Rawlins**
- * **Thomas Grogan**
George Arco
Gabriela Chavez
Rekha Elizebeth
Daniela Gomez
Stanley Grisnik
Chelsea Mitchell
Molly Richardson
Rachel Vuchinich

BARTRAM TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Steve Armstrong**
- * **David Yencarelli**
Lauren Atwell
Chris Densmore
Dexter Hocutt
Dylan Lindsay
Fredy Sarria
Deborah Thompson
Charles Tofferi

BISHOP KENNY HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Allison Gallup**
- * **David Schoening**
Carina Brillhart
Mike Collins
Taylor Droubie
Jacob Forman
Kole Goodrich
Ramsey Grissom
Rodolfo Martin
Marie McMaster
Alexander Mosher
Albert Rodriguez

CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Kevin Davenport**
- * **Jacob Thurlow**
Justin Brown
Scott Cline
Amanda Crist
Mark Harvey
Bub LeNoir
Bet Lentz
Daniel Limonta
Dan Sandler
Dylan Scanlon
Giancarlo Thompson

HOME SCHOOL TEAM

- * **Wayne Petrone**
Fred DeWitt
Kimberly Ebberts
Jesse Heckman
Arthur Mastronicola
Michael Petrone
Jay Wilkins

MIDDLEBURG HIGH SCHOOL

- * **David Gillum**
- * **Mike Ackley**
- * **Amanda Hult**
Jeb McLendon

NEASE HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Bergman Arias**

- * *School Champion*
- * *Lead Mentor*

ORANGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Mary Ellen DeMarco**
- * **Joseph DeMarco**
Aubrey Awe
Richard Barrows
Dara Davis
Tamara Henderson
Christopher Jackson
Michael Nee
Fernando Sanchez

RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Monique Bell**
- * **Robert Jackson**
- * **Crystal Markley**
Kierstin Beaumont
Chad Boone
Monique Brown
Janel LeGard
Quayshaun Marshall
Denise Muth
Rebecca O'Neal
Amanda Polematidis
Harun Resulovic
Ledarius Smith
Viaronic Snow-Hill

PEDRO MENENDEZ HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Howard Nunamaker**
- * **Kevin McEwen**
Anthony Andrade
Kayla Lakatos
Evan Smith

TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

- * **Darren Argentina**
- * **Tim Hutcherson**
Greg Burke
Bryan Dorsey
Justin Lee
Rich Pritt
David Rush
Craig Scott
Laura Smith

THANK YOU,
DIAMOND SPONSORS



TRADES

On February 14, 2023, ACE NEFL hosted the 2nd Annual Trades Day at American Electrical Contracting. ACE students spent the day interacting with 15 companies and apprenticeship programs to explore career opportunities within the trades industry. It was an incredible opportunity for students to explore the world of trades.



2023 TRADES DAY COMPANIES

- American-Electrical Contracting
- Auld & White Constructors
- Beard Equipment
- Campbell Plumbing & Mechanical
- Duval Asphalt
- Electrical Training Alliance
- ICG Builds
- JE Abercrombie
- NEFBA
- Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors
- PulteGroup
- StrataTech
- The Haskell Company
- UA Local 234
- W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors



FUNDRAISING

During the 2022-2023 program our ACE Affiliate raised funds for scholarships and programming from corporate and personal donations, fundraising events and raffles, grants and on-line donation campaigns.

GRANTS

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is proud to be a grant recipient from the following organizations. ACE NEFL will use these funds to provide mentoring, college and trade opportunities for students in Clay, Duval and St. Johns Counties.

- Black & Decker
- Capital City Foundation
- Clay Electric Foundation
- Community Foundation of NEFL
- Kajima Foundation
- Jaguars Foundation
- Pulte Group Foundation
- Red Coats/Players
- Reinhold Foundation
- Stellar Foundation

EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

This year ACE NEFL hosted the following events that contributed to our fundraising goals. The events were supported by our corporate sponsors, industry partners, school champions, mentors, parents and students.

- Clay Shoot Fundraiser
- Diversity Celebration
- Technology Bootcamp
- Trades Day & Dunk Tank
- Year-End Event



The Creekside High School students exceeded their fundraising goal and were thrilled to dunk Mr. Kevin Davenport.

Our newest fundraiser, Dunk an ACE Champion, was a student competition to raise funds for a scholarship. Middleburg High School raised 300% of their fundraising goal. Gabriel Edenfield, a student at Middleburg HS, presented the \$3,000 scholarship to Creekside High School senior, Erin Philip at our Year-End Event in April.



Steve Hollingsworth of Clay Electric Foundation presented ACE Board Member Carl Burdick and Affiliate Director Nicole Eubanks with a big check.

CAMPAIGNS

For the annual day of giving that follows Thanksgiving, known as #GivingTuesday, we encouraged individual supporters and parents to donate by sponsoring an ACE student. Through their \$75 donation, individuals cover the cost of a student's participation in the ACE Program. ACE NEFL raised \$2,500.



CORPORATE SPONSORS

A listing of our Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze corporate sponsors is provided on the next page.

DONATE

ACE NEFL remains committed to serving students and guiding them towards a career path that they love. With your help, we will continue to change the lives of Northeast Florida students. Donate today: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=KXH2EK5GSKJHN

DIAMOND SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



CLAY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

ACE NEFL hosted the 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Fundraiser on September 22, 2022, raising \$55,522 for Northeast Florida students, exceeding our \$40,000 goal.

The sponsors of this event included:

- Auld & White Constructors
- Building Envelope Consulting Group
- Commercial Construction Services
- Fastsigns - St. Johns Bluff
- Faver Gray General Contractor
- Foresight Construction Group
- Hollandsworth Construction
- Image Resource Group
- Legacy Engineering, Inc
- Matthews Design Group
- McVeigh & Mangum Engineering
- Miller Electric Company
- Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors
- Sauer Mechanical
- Spectra Contract Flooring
- The Haskell Company
- Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
- Wilson Electric
- W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor



PUBLIC RELATIONS

The PR Committee develops collateral and social campaigns to support the mission of ACE NEFL and its committees. This year we developed two new social campaigns and also supported fundraising campaigns, mentor recruitment and the Year End Event.

ACE DAY 2022

Our mentors are the backbone of ACE. We celebrated ACE Day on September 20th, by recognizing our long-time mentors and highlighting the need for additional mentors.



MENTOR SPOTLIGHTS



As we kick off our program year, we spotlight a few of our mentors to recognize their involvement in the program, and to help inspire new mentors to join one of our 11 locations.

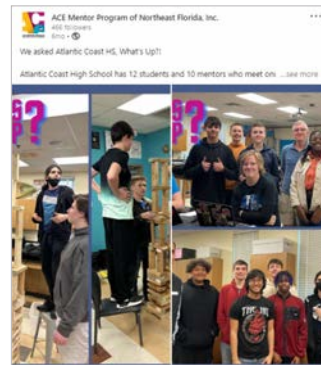


FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @acementornefl
Instagram: @acementornefl
LinkedIn: ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc
Twitter: @ACENEFL

WHAT'S UP?

The "What's Up?" campaign was launched in January, showcasing program highlights from each location.



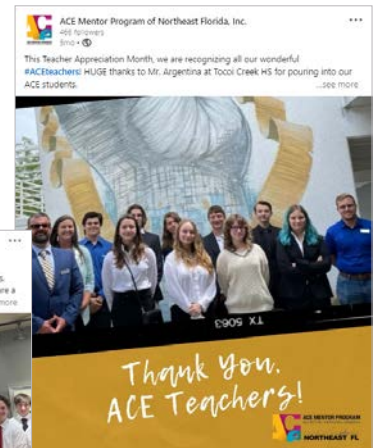
Atlantic Coast & Bartram Trail High Schools



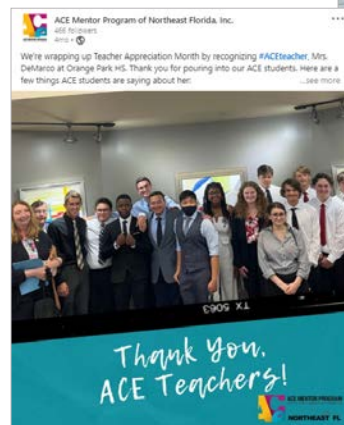
TEACHER APPRECIATION MONTH

ACE Mentor Program would not be where it is today without our school champions (teachers). They cultivate, encourage and excite young minds in order to help students pursue careers in the A-E-C industry. In celebration of national Teacher Appreciation Week, we thanked our teachers/champions at all 11 locations during the month of May.

Thank you for all you do!



Toco Creek High School



Orange Park High School

ENGAGE EXCITE INSPIRE

Help shape the future!

DONATE
NOW



SCAN HERE

GET
INVOLVED



SCAN HERE

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.