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@ACEMentorRoch

@ACEMentorRoc

@ACE Mentor Program of Rochester

rochesterny@acementor.org
www.acementor.org

59 TOTAL STUDENTS FROM 18 SCHOOL DISTRICTS!

We started our 2023-24 program year out with 75 students applicants interested in joining the program! In order to provide the best program for both students and mentors we began the program year with a total 59 of students between our two programs – Community Parks and Playhouse. Of those students, we had representatives from 18 schools in the Rochester Area. In addition, we had many returning and new mentors from various disciplines in the ACE field, representing 12 different firms across the region!

Students were able to choose which group they wanted to join - Playhouse or Community Parks. Playhouse focuses on architecture and construction while Community Parks focuses on site redevelopment and civil engineering. These groups have separate weekly classes and come together every few weeks for the hands-on trades classes.

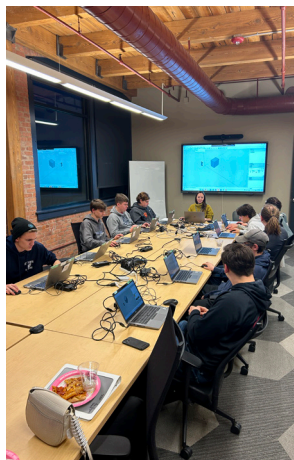


PROGRAM UPDATES

Playhouse

Our Playhouse program began with a few weeks of education classes, presented by mentors and guests from various ACE-related industries. These hands-on and interactive lessons help students learn the building blocks of our professions and prepare for their design and construction of six Playhouses. Throughout these initial classes, students were placed in groups and worked together to design a Playhouse. From initial brainstorming and bubble diagramming sessions to final elevations and plans, this framework is very valuable for the students to use during build days.

After these few classes learning core principals of the ACE fields and designing in groups, our students gathered at Issac Training and Education Center for the build days. Students learned how to use various tools and brought their concepts to life, working alongside the mentors to construct their playhouses. With creative ideas like a rounded roof, sliding barn doors, slides, steering wheels, and more, the students ended up building fantastic playhouses. Thank you to all the volunteer mentors who joined for the build days, and we look forward to collaborating with Zoey's Light to find homes for these awesome creations!



Community Parks

Our Community Parks students completed a conceptual redevelopment project culminating with a wonderful capstone presentation at Rochester City Hall. Four teams showcased options to redevelop a section of the City of Rochester Public Market based on the City's Master Plan and information provided by Director of Public Market – Jim Farr. Following a site visit to explore the area and interviewing vendors & visitors, the teams utilized principles learned during various ACE sessions to develop site plans and details on how a section of the Market could be transformed. The objective being to provide more communal space that included event, seating and artistic expression options while maintaining some linkage to the historical presence of this fixture in downtown Rochester. Thank you to the City of Rochester for their support and providing this opportunity for our students!

The next portion of the Community Parks program is new this year and currently in progress. Students are working together to build a large goat playhouse, with teams designing individual modular pieces. These pieces will then be assembled together on site at Cracker Box Palace! This is our first year partnering with this organization and we are excited to make a fun play structure for the goats to use.



FIELD DAYS

THANK YOU TO THE CONSTRUCTION FIRMS THAT HOSTED HANDS-ON FIELD DAYS, WORKSHOPS AND PROJECT SITE TOURS!



ROCHESTER PUBLIC MARKET - CITY OF ROCHESTER



METAL STUD FRAMING COMPETITION - LOCAL UNION 276



UR LASER LAB - LECHASE CONSTRUCTION



ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION - NECA TRAINING FACILITY



CONCRETE FOOTING COMPETITION - PIKE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

QUESTION + ANSWERS

Meet the Student



What is your name, what year are you in school and what school do you attend? What program are you in and how long have you been a part of it?

My name is Donovan Palma and I am a Senior at Eastridge High School. I am in Community Parks and this is my first year. A lot of my friends have been involved in the program for a few years, and they said great things about it, so I was finally able to join this year and give it a try.

What has been your favorite thing about the program so far?

My favorite part has been the sessions when people come in and teach us about different aspects of engineering - whether that is solar, or mechanical, those sessions where we are able to learn, listen and figure out what the professionals do day-to-day is what I like most. This also helped me learn how many different opportunities there are in the each of the ACE industries, and that there is not just one set path for students to pursue after high school.

How has ACE helped you determine what you would like to do after high school?

Since we get to learn about a variety of fields, it has helped me narrow down what I want to do, that I want to be more hands-on instead of on the computer. I now know I definitely want to be out in the field.

How have you enjoyed the Saturday trades classes?

The concrete footing competition was really cool because I got to experience an aspect of the construction of a building and see how the details all come together. It informed me how much time and effort it takes for people to do this as a full time career, how laborious it is and to get a sense of what I could do as a career.

Meet the Mentor



What is your name, job title and firm you work for? How long have you been a mentor?

My name is Katie Burns, I am a Civil Engineer at LaBella Associates. I have been a mentor in the Playhouse Program for 3 years and a member of the Scholarship Review Committee for 2 years now.

What got you interested in the ACE Program?

I have always felt a strong calling to giving back and helping others and thought it would be a great opportunity to do so, especially in my field. I have a civil engineering degree with a sustainability focus, which is something that I see students have a lot of interest in.

Do you have anyone who you have specifically inspired / helped during the program?

I had a student for two years in a row, which is uncommon, and her growth through the program was fantastic. She was heavily involved in the design, construction, and delivery of the playhouse to a young child with leukemia. She applied for a scholarship and through my participation in the Scholarship Review Committee, we unanimously agreed that she deserved an award. I was able to present her with a scholarship for her pursuit of an interior design degree from a local university.

What are you looking forward to the most for this year's ACE Program?

I am excited to be working with a new group this year and support the students in their creative direction for the design of the playhouse. Some students lean towards the math or drawing aspect of the program, while others are hands-on learners and excel and take initiative at the build days. It is great to see a student succeed in aspects that are not always catered to in a traditional school setting.

QUESTION + ANSWERS

Meet The Board Member



What is your name, job title and firm you work for? How long have you been a mentor?

My name is Aly Mancuso, I am a Project Designer at SWBR. I have been a mentor for 3 years, on the Scholarship Committee for 2 years, and am the current ACE Rochester Marketing and Communications Director. This is my first year on the board and I am happy to bring new creative ideas to our social media and marketing efforts!

How did you hear about the ACE program?

I learned about the ACE program through some co-workers who have been involved as mentors and board members throughout the years. The program immediately stood out to me as a unique opportunity to give students experience in multiple disciplines and decide what is the right path for them. I knew that I wanted to be an architect from an early age, but for students who are deciding between different majors, or if they would rather pursue the trades, the ACE classes are invaluable.

How have you shared the ACE Program with teachers, students and professionals?

Our ACE Program has a strong Board of Directors, and I serve as the Marketing and Communications Director. In doing so, I am able to consistently post on our social media accounts photos and videos of the students' progress with their designs, along with connecting to Rochester industry leaders and school districts to get more support and involvement. We also have a quarterly newsletter that is sent to schools, local ACE firms, and Rochester City stakeholders that share the great work the students are doing and advocate for opportunities that folks can get involved – whether that is donating time or resources. These efforts, along with a forthcoming promotional video, help spread the word of this amazing program!

Meet the Board Member



What is your name, job title and firm you work for? How long have you been a mentor?

My name is Yusef S. Ely and I am a Project Manager and Estimator for Schuler-Haas Electric Corp. I've been a mentor for 3 years now for both the Community Parks and Playhouse programs.

What got you interested in ACE?

I was a student in the ACE program in 2015 and I can quite clearly see the impact this program has on the community. I'd like to share the opportunities provided by the program and continue its mission.

What's your favorite part of being a mentor?

The best part of what I do is seeing the light bulb go off in a student's head when something clicks, and especially when a student discovers their calling.

What is your new board position and what does it entail?

As the Director of Fundraising for the Rochester chapter, I am responsible for managing our corporate sponsorship and partnerships as well as finding additional avenues to support our not-for-profit organizational activities.

How are you planning to bring new ideas and excitement to the role?

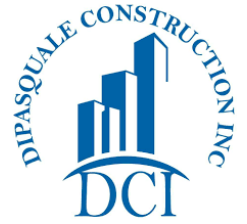
My goal is to expand our number of partnerships within the community and focus on increasing involvement in the underrepresented areas of our industry. I intend for this program to have a connection to every sector of our business.

SPONSORS





SPONSORS



Not Pictured:
F.L Rayburn

Not Pictured:
Turtle

Paint and Wall Coverings

MENTORS



CAITLIN O'LEARY
MARK JOHNS
TAMI COGLAN
GARY FLISNIK



GABRIELLE MARINO
ALY MANCUSO
REIHLEY LITTLEFIELD
DARWIN FOWLER
BRITTANY MURPHY
LIZ REYNOLDS



KE'SHARA WEBB FIELDS



Schuler-Haas
Electric Corp.

YUSEF ELY
JOHN LANGDON



MELISSA MUNOZ



STEVEN KUSHNER



MARIA NIETO VILLAMANDOS
JESSICA WOUGHTER
BARBARA BURKE
KATELYN BURNS
FARES DARKAL
AIKA AUSSICKER
CAMILLE COSMIANO
CALVIN LEUNG



LECHASE

COURTNEY LAFFERTY



TYLER BECKER
KIMBERLY BREEDLOVE
IKEA JENKINS
BILL KETCHEN



ALEXA JOANETTE



MATT FAULKS



BECCA KOHLMAN

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Council was established in 2021 to assist the Board of Directors in insuring the well-being and growth of our program. The Council is comprised of leaders from the construction, design, and education industries and will monitor industry trends, business factors, and external forces to determine their impact and/or relevancy to our strategic planning. This group continues to be a great resource to the program and we are thankful for their contributions and leadership.



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LABELLA ASSOCIATES



WILLIAM DEAN
ALFRED STATE



KEVIN RICKETT
SCHULER-HAAS ELECTRIC CORP



LAVON BUCCIARELLI
WEST IRONDEQUOIT HIGH SCHOOL



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MANNING SQUIRES HENNIG



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