



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

Year 13: July Newsletter

Final Presentation



Congratulations to this years ACE Students

33 Students | 13 Schools | 15 Mentors
All Virtual Sessions

The ACE of Maine Mentoring Program continues to grow despite the challenges of the pandemic. In addition to our academic sessions, our curriculum committee went above and beyond and organized additional programming for the students. This year, we gave away the most amount of scholarship money. The ACE of Maine Final Presentation went virtual on April 13th and the students prepared videos that were thoughtful, impressive, and well presented. This year could not have been possible without our generous donors and tireless volunteers to help grow the next generation of professionals.

Mentor Spotlight:

Ben Winschel
Architect
CHA Architecture

Ben has been an indispensable, highly committed mentor for the past five years.

We are honored to name Ben our mentor of the year. Thank you Ben!



What is your education background?

My first educational experience was as an ACE student myself! The program was still in its early years here in Portland, and I had heard of the opportunity through my architectural design class at Deering High School. The program was what helped solidify my decision to apply for Architecture school.

I went on to get a B.S. and a Masters in Architecture from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. After that – I moved back to Portland where I've lived and worked since.

Most memorable Project?

My most memorable project was the Kate Furbish Elementary School in Brunswick, Maine. It was the first large-scale project that I worked on and had a major hand in. We had a strong team working on it, a great client, and were able to incorporate some major design elements on a tight budget. Overall – it was a rewarding project that I'll remember for a long time.

Advice to ACE Students?

My advice to ACE students is that it's okay to not know exactly what you want to do after high school – or even after college. You can always change your path. The great thing about this program is it exposes students to all facets of the industry, and can open up possibilities you never considered. Go into it with an open mind!

School Champion:

Gretchen McCoy

Director of Community
Partnerships

South Portland School
Department

We are honored to name
Gretchen our school champion
of the year.

Thank you Gretchen!



What is your education background?

Bachelors of Arts from Boston College where I majored in Psychology
Junior year abroad at the National University of Singapore
Masters of Arts in Counseling from Lesley University

Most memorable Project or Part of ACE?

For the 2021 and 2022 final projects I was floored by the work that students pulled together in a virtual format.~ It was a joy to see students be able to explore their own strength areas, and incorporate those ideas into a cohesive group project. Many groups were composed of students from different high schools, and it was great to see this collaboration across schools. The skills that were developed beyond Architecture, Construction~and Engineering included life skills in communication, collaboration, compromise, the group creative process, time management~and professionalism.

In-person, I enjoyed watching a group of students be invited by an ACE Mentor to make the tallest tower out of 3 pieces of paper and tape.~ It was a fun challenge, and I was surprised by the creative models that students constructed with limited resources.~~

Advice to Ace Students?

Give it a try! Even if you are not sure if ACE is the right club for you, it's great to show up, and give it a chance. Students are always amazed by the cool experiences they gain from doing ACE.~ You have lots of people supporting you (from the ACE Mentors to your school champions) so reach out to an adult if you need help along your journey.~ There is a whole team of folks who want you to be successful, and have fun doing ACE!



As a member of the ACE Mentor community, we pledge to nurture and value the diversity of backgrounds, identities, talents, and beliefs of each individual involved in our program. As we push forward in our efforts to build a more unified, inclusive, and diverse workforce, we pledge to be agents of positive, lasting change. We commit to ensuring that every student and volunteer has equitable access to ACE resources and feels included as a valued member of the ACE community.

Congratulations Scholarship Winners

Logan Beaupre
Jared Conant
Mia Hornschild-Bear

Marcella Hesser
Katherine Gross

Congratulations the Class of 2022

Ethan Clough
Jared Conant
Katherine Gross
Marcella Hesser

Nathan Ladd
Joshua Prescott
Eli Rogers
Ryan Sharples

Thank you to our Participating Schools

Baxter Academy
Brunswick High School
Casco Bay High School
Edward Little High School
Gorham High School
Portland High School
South Portland High School
Waynflete School

Bonny Eagle High School
Cape Elizabeth High School
Deering High School
Freeport High School
Greely High School
Scarborough High School
Yarmouth High School

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