



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 02, 2022

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**SIX NEW LEADERS ARE WELCOMED TO ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF
NORTHEAST FLORIDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

JACKSONVILLE, FL — ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida announced the addition of six new members to the 2022-23 Board of Directors and the election of one new officer. New members include Lauren Atwell, Carl Burdick, Tracey Friley, Robert Jackson, David Rush and Tom Smith. Stacy Ferguson was elected as Secretary.

The members will work with the current board to meet the organization's strategic goals and to fulfill their mission to engage, excite and inspire high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry.

“As a longtime mentor and active Board Member, I am pleased to have been appointed as the Secretary of ACE of NEFL Board of Directors,” said Stacy Ferguson. “During this time of strategic growth focused on diversity and expansion, our leadership and staff are thrilled to extend additional resources and opportunities to our students. I look forward to working with the new board members to provide quality programming for Northeast Florida students to learn about the architectural, construction and engineering industry.”



Lauren Atwell, Chief Operating Officer of Petticoat Schmitt Civil Contracting, has an established career that spans over 35 years of experience in the civil construction industry with a strong emphasis on water and waste water treatment facilities. Lauren graduated from Clarkson University with a BS in Civil Environmental Engineering. Lauren has served on several boards and held leadership positions for professional, volunteer and institutional organizations including Chairman of National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), Chairman of the UNF Construction Management Advisory Board, AWWA, WEF and SAME.



Carl Burdick is a Senior Architect at Bhide & Hall Architects, P.A. As a newly elected Board Member, Carl has been volunteering with ACE NEFL since 2019. With over 16 years of diverse experience in the architecture industry, Carl is thrilled to bring his passion for mentoring and love for the built environment into this leadership role.



Tracey Friley is a Senior Project Architect at Haskell/FreemanWhite in Jacksonville, Florida. She has diverse experience in all phases of design and construction administration. Throughout her career, she has worked on various building types in both the commercial and federal building environments including secondary educational institutions, senior living facilities, K-12 school facilities, commercial groceries, and religious institutions; but finds the most reward as a Healthcare Architect. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, shopping, and spending time with family.



Robert Jackson is the Director of Engineering in Transportation & Civil Infrastructure at The Haskell Company and has been a longtime Lead Mentor at Riverside High School for ACE of NEFL. With his dynamic experience, Robert brings a wealth a knowledge to the Board. He is looking forward to leading the Junior Council and contributing to the Education Committee.



As a Jacksonville native, David Rush has seen many changes occur in the growth and development of Northeast Florida. Currently serving as Project Director for Charles Perry Partners, Inc. David joined the Board of Directors to help young students realize their potential not only from an educational perspective, but also from a career focused opportunity.



Tom Smith began his career with W. W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc. in 1991. Much of those 30 years have been spent between the Jacksonville and Gainesville offices, heavily involved in all aspects of the business. Tom served our country in the U.S. Army Aviation for 4 years. During his service in Europe, he also received his Associates Degree from the University of Maryland. Upon returning home, he began studies at Southern Illinois University for a business degree in Workforce Management. Tom is also a state-certified Mechanical, Plumbing and Underground Utility Contractor.

“ACE of NEFL is working hard to expand our programming to students in our region and gaining the dynamic leadership of these new members is another leap in that direction. We are honored by their existing service to Northeast Florida, and are even more excited to work alongside them to bring meaningful mentoring and opportunities to additional high school students,” said Nicole Eubanks, Affiliate Director, ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida.

For more information about ACE Mentoring Program of Northeast Florida, visit www.acementor.org/northeast-fl

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About ACE Mentor Program

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is a nonprofit organization helping high school students in our region to explore careers in architecture, construction and engineer through after-school mentoring and scholarships to support their continue advancement in the industry.