An Introduction to:

ACE MENTOR - CT

Engage Excite Enlighten

WELCOME



Thanks for your interest in the ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut! We hope that this presentation will give you a better understanding of our award-winning program for high school students and inspire you to further explore your interests in Architecture, Engineering, and Construction.

DAN THORNTON, AIA

President, ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut
Associate Principal, JCJ Architecture

AGENDA

01

INTRODUCTION TO ACE

02

SESSION STRUCTURE

03

MENTOR + ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

04

NEXT STEPS

01

AN INTRODUCTION TO ACE

WHAT IS ACE?

- A volunteer after-school program for high school students, 9-12
- An opportunity to experience construction industry professions
- Gaining mentorship from knowledgeable professionals
- Exciting hands-on activities
- Designing a project as a team



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM QUICK FACTS

70+
AFFILIATES

— At the 70+ local affiliates, ACE Mentor Programs actively engage with their communities, bringing together students, educators, and industry professionals.

— The program is offered free of charge. ACE students come from nearly 2,000 high schools.

5K+
VOLUNTEERS

— Over 5,000 ACE 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.

47M
DOLLARS

— Since its start, ACE has awarded nearly $47 million in scholarships to students intending to study industry-related fields in college or enter a skilled trades training program.

— In 25-26, over 1,300 students (including alums) received over $5 million in scholarships.

14K
STUDENTS

— ACE Mentor registered more than 14,000 high school students in the last year.

— 41% of ACE Mentor seniors going into higher ed are 1st generation (27% nationwide: NCES).

— More than 900 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.

700+
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. ACE currently has over 700 college students to date.

LEARN FROM THE PROS

ARCHITECTURE

- Architects
- Interior Designer
- Landscape Architects

CONSTRUCTION

- Construction Managers
- Estimators
- Schedulers

ENGINEERING

- Civil & Structural Engineers
- Mechanical & Plumbing Engineers
- Electrical & Technology Engineers



WORKING WITH ALL A-E-C PROFESSIONS

- Simulating a real project team with Architecture, Engineering, and Construction professionals
- Opportunity to explore all disciplines
- Looking at a project from all angles; owner, city, design team, construction team
- Trying new methods of communication; CAD, drawings, physical and digital models



TEAM DESIGN PROJECT

[DESIGN PROGRAM]

POTENTIAL SPACES TO BE INCLUDED:

While designing, we ask that you pay specific attention to the structure of the building and bring a high level of craft to the proposal. Sustainability is a major consideration, so we ask that you accomplish all of these tasks at a reasonable cost while keeping a carbon neutral footprint. As such, the project should be limited in scale, material choices, and construction techniques while still realizing a brilliant spatial and programmatic design. A cost estimate will be rquested as a part of the project as well.

- Meeting / Conference Rooms (Large and Small)
- Ballroom (Wedding Receptions / Events)
- Historic Exhibit Area / Displays
- Administrator Office
- Catering (Cold Kitchen) Preparation Room
- Second Floor (full Size)
- Seasonal Indoor Vendor Market Booths 8'x10'
- Support Rooms (Toilets, Elevator, Mechanical/Electric)
- Cooking Equipment (Cook) Room
- MEP Equipment / Maintenance Room
- Seasonal External Vendor Covered Booths 10'x10'

[BUILDING TOTAL: 6,800 SQFT]

Note: Exterior spaces (Gardens/Parking/etc.) square footage is not calculated into total Market Complex square footage.

[TOTAL BUDGET: $135,000]

Note: Budget takes into account total costs of both the Market Complex and site components. Budget is subject to change based on the designers enhancements to the design prompt.

Students / Teams must submit one (1) digital copy of their complete design proposal. All materials will become the property of the ACE Mentor Program. All presentation materials must be submitted to your representative no later than 11:59 P.M. on May 21st, 2025. No submissions will be accepted after this date and time or at any other location. Each submission must contain the following information:

- Description of the design proposal. Students should provide a description of the development proposal, including the following:
  - Floor Plans, exterior elevations, and exterior material selection.
  - Proposed structural, mechanical, and building systems.
  - Proposed Green building and site strategies.
  - Estimated cost and approximate schedule for completion.
  - Architectural Renderings showcasing the Design

[CRITICAL THINKING ISSUES]

How does the new Farmer's Market relate to the existing site utilities and adjacent structures?
- Should it be less integrated or more integrated?

How does the new facade affect the landscape?

Is the concept development appropriate for your design?

Does your plan respond to the suggested program?

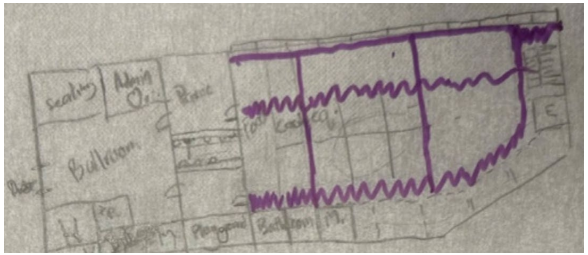
Is the site relationship the best for your Market?

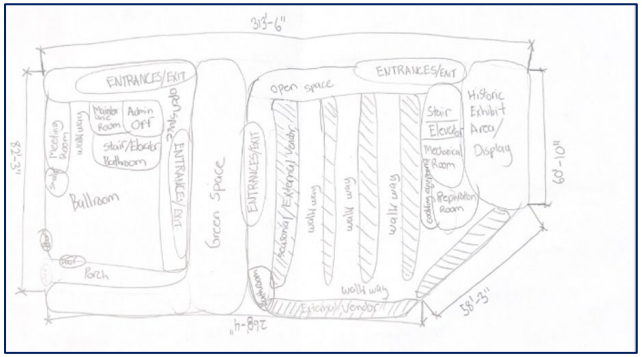
Does it respond to its context, both physical and climatic?

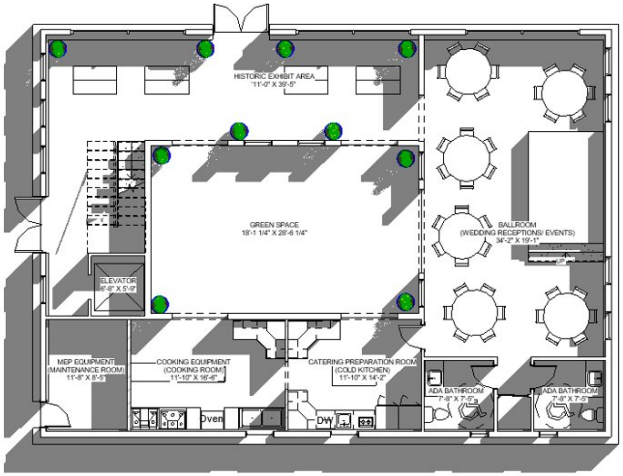
What physical activities happen in and around the building?
- Are the spaces appropriate for those activities?

Does it utilize structure in the design?

Does the Farmer's Market & site context incorporate unique MEP design?





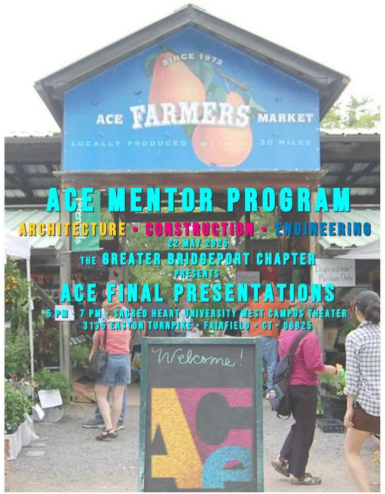


TEAM DESIGN PROJECT





TEAM DESIGN PROJECT





WHY JOIN ACE?

- Find your Passion!
- Experience Construction Professions BEFORE College
- Mentorship from Skilled Professionals
- Develop New Skills
- Qualify for Scholarships
- Have Fun!





WHAT'S THIS GOING TO COST?

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM IS FREE TO STUDENTS.

Our aim is that every interested student can participate.

- There is no fee for students to participate.
- Hospitality and Supplies are donated by supporting Firms.
- We may also be provide parking & bus vouchers when required.
- Our Mentors are trusted AEC professionals, volunteering their time because of their passion for the industry and helping others.

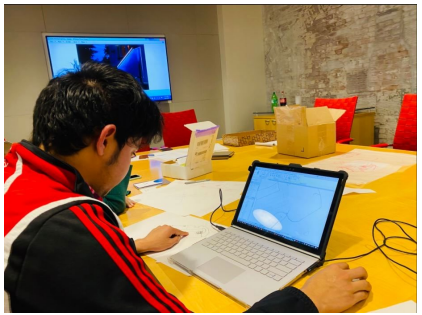


02

SESSION STRUCTURE

SESSION STRUCTURE

- Teams meet weekly or bi-weekly for about 16 sessions.
- The meeting day varies by team, with options on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays.
- Sessions will occur October through February or May.
- Sessions are hosted at professionals' offices or community centers.
- Like any team, we encourage you to attend as many sessions as possible.
- Missing two or three sessions over the year is generally fine.







EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

CAREER TOPICS

Construction Management

Architecture

Structural Engineering

Mechanical & Plumbing Engineering

Electrical & Technology Engineering

Civil Engineering & Site Analysis

Landscape Design





HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

IN ALL DISCIPLINES!

Team Building and Collaboration

Drawing and Visual Expression

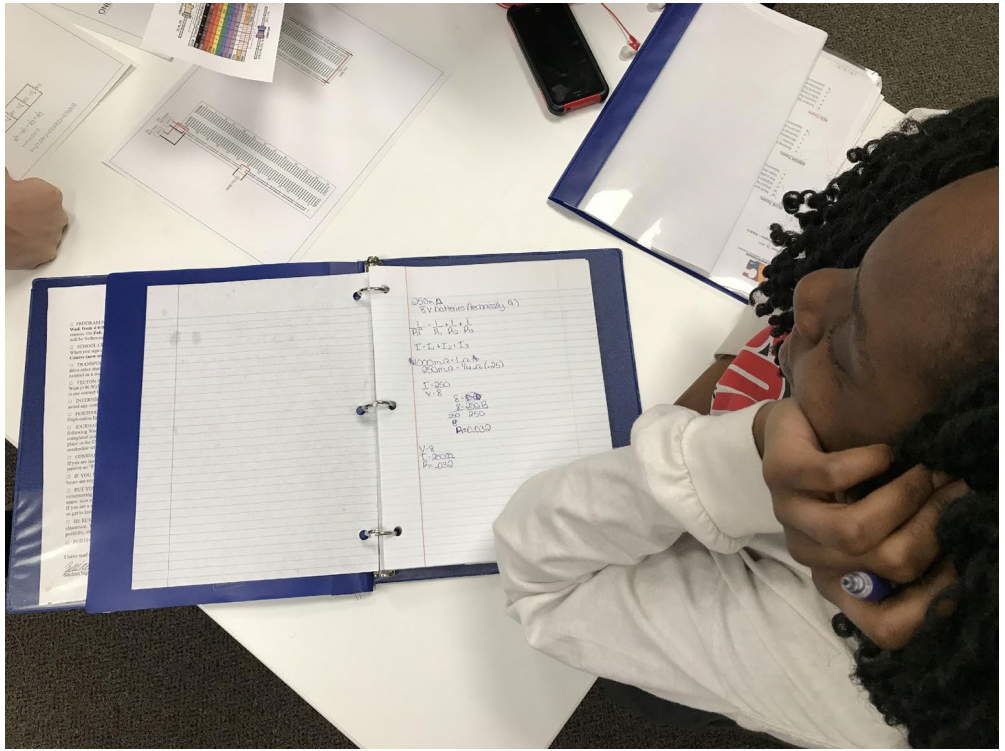
Programming and Research

Exterior and Interior Design

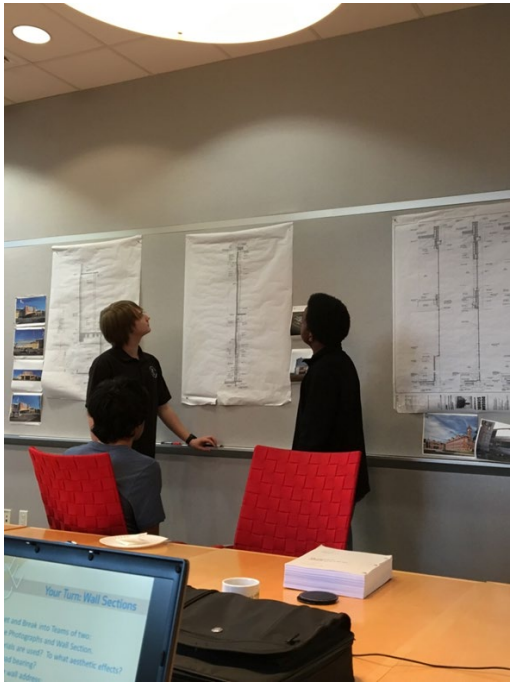
Engineering Design

Career Topic-based Activities

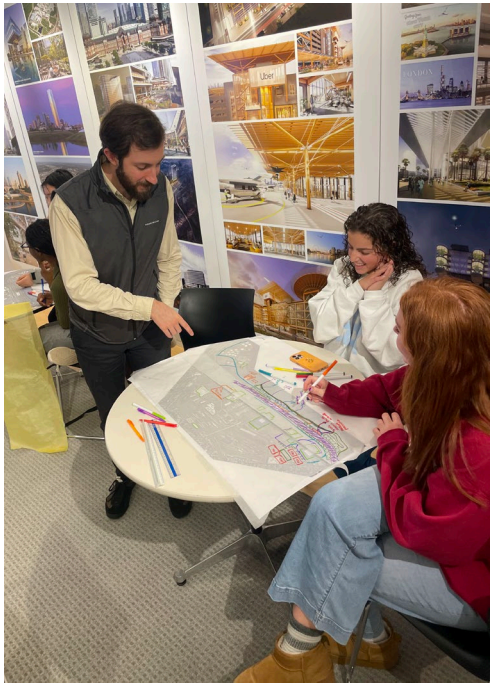
Construction Planning



ARCHITECTURE ACTIVITIES



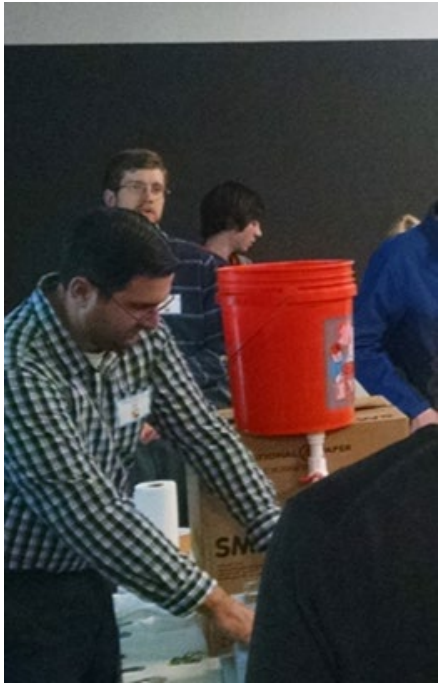


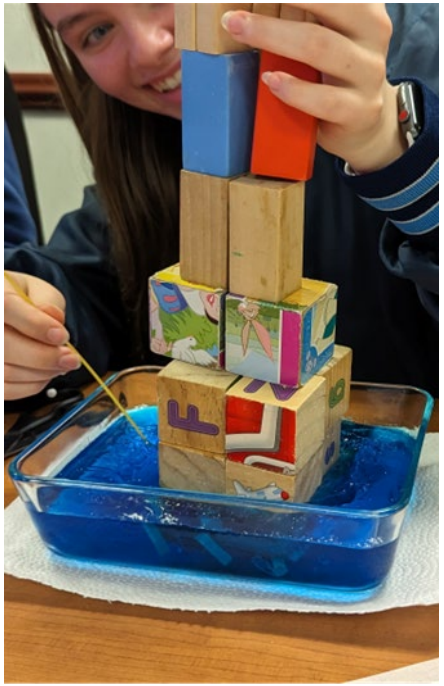


ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES





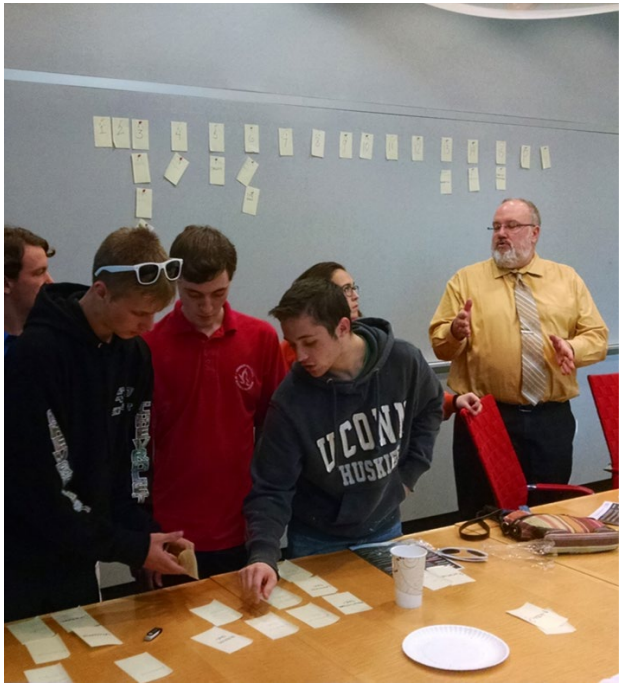




CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES







STUDENT PROJECT

DESIGN A PROJECT WITH YOUR TEAM!

The Design Project is different for each chapter.

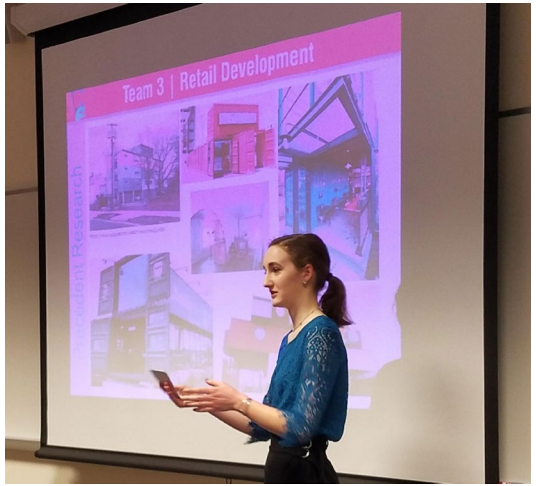
Collaborate on a realistic A/E/C design.

Practice presentation skills with your team.

Specialize your role on the team for your interests.

Present your final work as a team at a public event.

Submit to the ACE National competition (Optional).





03

ALUMNI + MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - RECENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Corina Lowry

Guilford High School

Michael Higgins Scholarship

College: Syracuse University
Major: Architecture



Christian Davis

Hartford Magnet Trinity Coll. Acd.

ACE CT Scholarship

College: Kean University
Major: Architecture



Gwendolyn Leonard

Trumbull High School

ACE CT Scholarship

College: UCONN Storrs
Major: Material Science & Eng.



Harper Irwin

Hamden High School

ACE CT Scholarship

College: Worcester Polytechnic
Major: Civil Engineering

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE



Emily Fazzina

Wethersfield High School

Murray Merl Scholarship

College: Roger Williams University
Major: Construction Management



Sushil Menon

Glastonbury High School

ACE CT Scholarship

College: Roger Williams University
Major: Architecture



Noah Klim

East Catholic High School

ACE CT Scholarship

College: Quinnipiac University
Major: Civil Engineering



Christina Marcellus

Stratford High School

ACE CT Scholarship

College: University of New Haven
Major: Mechanical Engineering

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - RETURNING AS MENTORS



Emily Ruggeri

Project Engineer

Turner Construction

ACE Greater Bridgeport Chapter Leader

Cornell University

Major: Civil Engineering



Timothy Griffing

Senior Civil Project Engineer

Loureiro Engineering

ACE Greater Bridgeport Mentor

University of New Haven

Major: Civil Engineering



Ben Chasse

Senior Project Engineer

Newfield Construction

ACE New Britain Mentor

Wentworth Institute of Tech.

Major: Construction Mgmt



Jesus Amado

Structural Engineer

Pratt & Whitney

ACE Middletown Mentor

University of New Haven

Major: Mechanical Engineering

ACE MENTOR CT FIRMS & SUPPORTERS

















































































04

NEXT STEPS
QUESTIONS?
USE THE CHAT FEATURE

NEXT STEPS

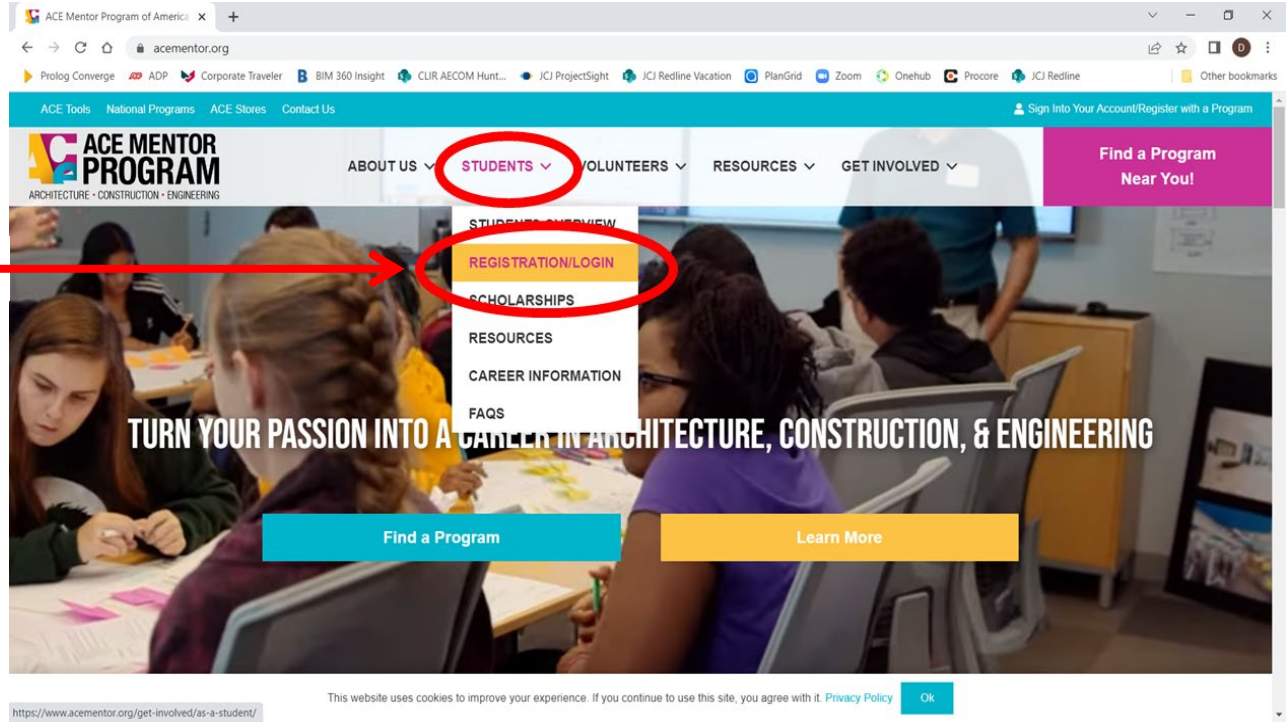
☑ Register Today! www.acementor.org

☑ Complete the Parent Consent Form

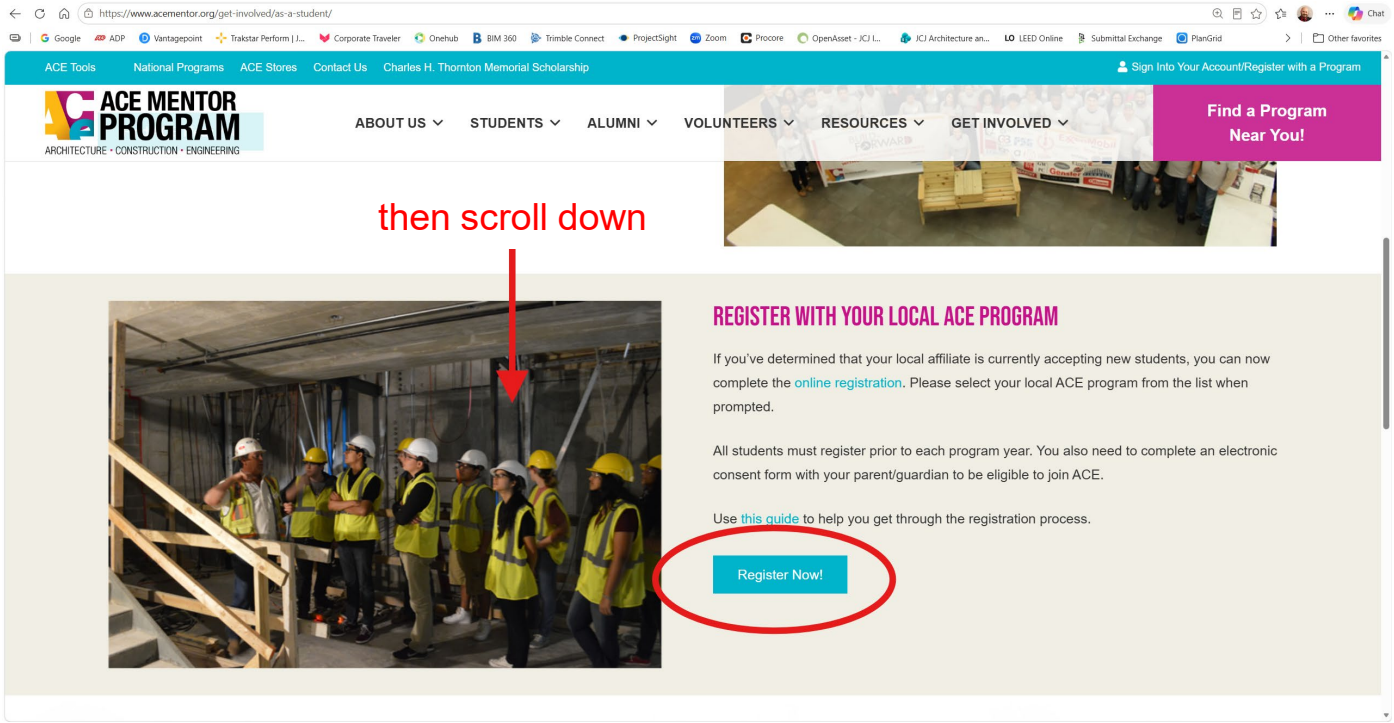
☑ Mark your calendar for your first session

REGISTER AT WWW.ACEMENTOR.ORG

click here



REGISTER AT WWW.ACEMENTOR.ORG



TEAM SCHEDULES

Bloomfield
at Salas O'Brien

206 West Newberry Road, Bloomfield
Every other week, October through May
Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm
Application Deadline: 9/30/2026
First Session: 10/07/2026

Bridgeport
at Wakeman Boys & Girls Club

595 Madison Ave, Bridgeport
Every other week, October through May
Thursdays from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm
Application Deadline: 10/09/2026
First Session: 10/22/2026

Hartford
at JCJ Architecture

120 Huyshope Ave, Suite 400, Hartford
Every week, October through February
Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm
Application Deadline: 10/06/2026
First Session: 10/13/2026

Hartford
at Tecton Architects

34 Sequassen Street, Suite 200, Hartford
Every week, October through February
Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm
Application Deadline: 10/07/2026
First Session: 10/14/2026

TEAM SCHEDULES

Middletown
at Tighe & Bond

213 Court Street, Floor 11, Middletown
Every other week, October through May
Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm
Application Deadline: 10/07/2026
First Session: 10/14/2026

New Haven
at Newman Architects

265 Church St, New Haven
Every other week, October through May
Thursdays from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm
Application Deadline: 10/01/2026
First Session: 10/22/2026

New Britain
at Kaestle Boos Associates

416 Slater Road, New Britain
Every week, October through March
Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm
Application Deadline: 9/29/2026
First Session: 10/06/2026

New Haven
at Pickard Chilton

980 Chapel Street, New Haven
Every week, October through April
Tuesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm
Application Deadline: 10/01/2026
First Session: 10/13/2026

THANK YOU!



Register at www.acementor.org