



2019-2020 Year End Report for ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida (ACENEFL)

ACE Mission

To Engage, Excite and Enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry.

Program Goals and Objectives

The construction industry is experiencing a significant shortage in its work force including both professional and skilled tradespeople. The expectation is that this will only get worse. Our objective is to reach as many interested students as possible to introduce them to careers in the design and construction industry with the desire that they pursue careers after high school either via college or through skilled training and/or apprenticeships. We hope to share career options with students that may have never known or considered them in the past. The desire is that they enter our industry and gain, fulfilling, well-paying careers.

Program Basics

This program exposes high school students to disciplines in architecture, construction and engineering, and allows exploration of potential careers in these fields. Mentors from local industry professional firms and related companies meet with students for two hours once a week for between 15 and 20 sessions. During these sessions, students are presented with a Request for Proposal (RFP) and work in teams to create hands-on, practical solutions for “real-world” projects. This is an effective way for students to experience the reality of what architects, designers, contractors and engineers do during a typical working day. The program typically culminates with a year-end event where teams present their projects for judging. The presentations are held in front of industry

By the Numbers, 2019-2020 Program

Locations:	7
Active Mentors:	67
Active Students:	94
Active Female Students:	34
Active Students from Under Represented Group:	41
Scholarships Awarded:	21
Scholarship Dollars Awarded:	\$32,250



Creeskside students during an icebreaker exercise

stakeholders (i.e., future employers), family, friends and the public. As part of the event, selected senior students are presented with scholarships to help fund their continued education.

Program Results

The 2019-2020 program was a success with growth in several areas. We added two additional teams during 2019-2020, increased our quantity of participating mentors and our quantity of active students. In addition, the fundraising effort was a success with the receipt of two grants, one from Clay Electric Foundation for Clay County students and another from Motorola for St. Johns County students. We awarded a record number and value of student scholarships aligning with our mission to help students pursue careers in our industry.

ACE NEFL Affiliate Program Year in Review

Board of Directors Update

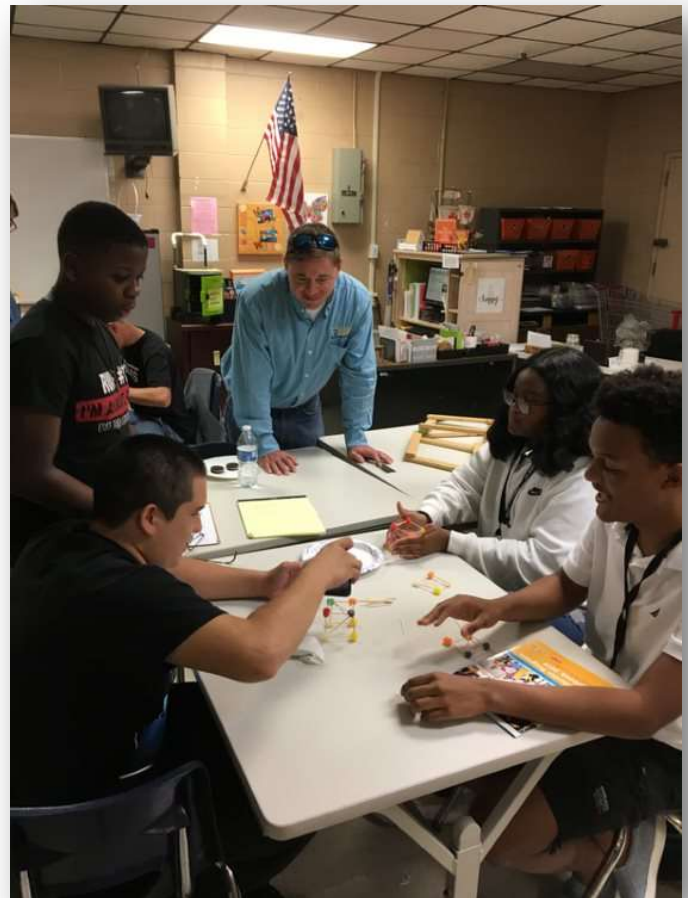
Prior to the start of the 2019-2020 program, we updated our Board of Directors. Our new leadership team included Jacob Thurlow as chair, Catherine Tappouni as vice-chair, Sheryl Tschimpke as treasurer and Joe Bove as secretary. In addition, several board members had timed out of Board participation. As a result, seven board members left and were replaced by seven new members. The board members that left had a long history of service to ACENEFL which we did not want to lose. As a result, we established an Advisory Council consisting of these previous board members. The total quantity of board members was 17. In addition, a Junior Board was established consisting of young professionals that could assist the Board and grow into future board members.

2019-2020 Program Start

The program expanded during the 2019-2020 program year with the addition of two new locations at Nease High School, in St Johns County, and Bishop Kenny High School, within Duval County. This brought us to a total of seven locations to also include Creekside High School, in St Johns County, Lee High School and a



Nease students explore virtual reality technology during an office visit



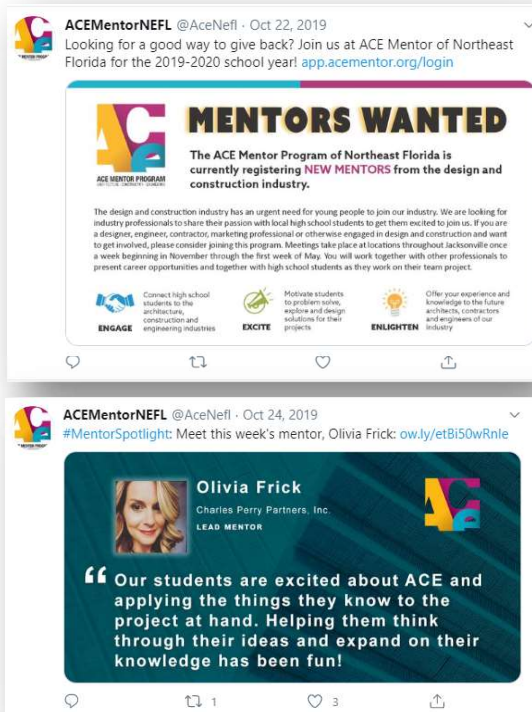
Orange Park students building a candy structure

Homeschool team, both in Duval County, and Orange Park High School and Middleburg High School, in Clay County.



Nease High School and Bishop Kenny High School joined the Program during 2019-2020.

Additional mentors were needed to staff the new locations. During October, our Mentor Committee did a great job of recruiting and identifying new mentors.



Social media used to recruit new mentors and highlight current mentors.

Most of the locations began during late November, kicking off the program just before the Thanksgiving holiday. The Request for Proposal created by the Board offered student teams two options. The first option was for a National Pavilion to be located in Northeast Florida. The other option was for a gastronomic center.

Presentations to Town of Orange Park

After successfully presenting their response to the placemaking Request for Proposal at the year-end event last spring, the Orange Park High School ACE team, Architects Anonymous, was invited to present “Placemaking at Clarke Park” to the Town of Orange Park local government on May 21st, 2019. The team did an outstanding job sharing their ideas with the mayor, town councilmen and over 100 local citizens. The Town of Orange Park officials were so impressed with their presentation that they invited them to participate in committee meetings that would determine how money from grant funding should be spent.

The first committee meeting was held on September 21st, 2019. Discussions were spirited as different groups discussed other competing projects around the community. The students had to defend their ideas and try to convince the attendees as to why their improvements to Clarke Park were the best use of grant funding.



Students from Orange Park present to the Town of Orange Park

The students gained valuable real-life experience dealing with local government and the funding process for such community improvement projects as well as dealing with the strong opinions from the town’s residents. Senior McKenzie St. Vilus stated that he “loved the intense atmosphere and

the opportunity to defend the team's ideas." Several team members are planning to continue to attend subsequent committee meetings with the hopes of making some of their concepts a reality.

STEM Day at the Capital

We were invited to participate in the 2020 STEM Day at the Capitol held on February 27th. This event provided an opportunity for 14 of our high school student participants to display their work and to speak to both the public and lawmakers, including our area's own House of Representatives member Cyndi Stevenson, about the ACE Mentor Program and the importance of STEM education. Students also had a chance to view other displays from around the state and gained experience in networking, communication and presentation skills.



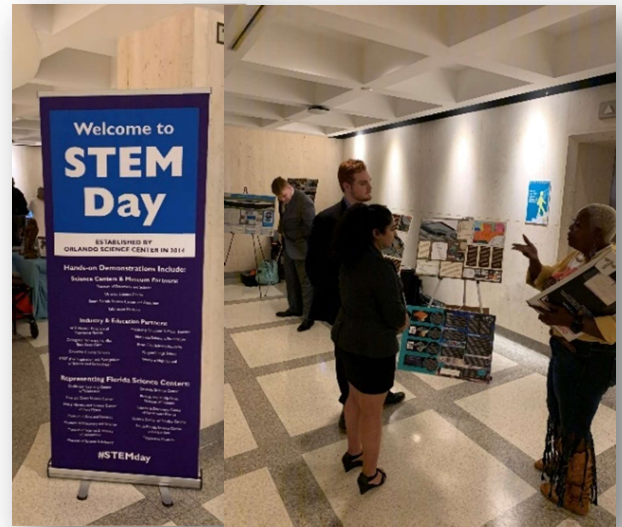
Informational cards were distributed by ACE students during the STEM Day event

ACE National Competition

We had three teams, one from Creekside High School, one from Nease High School and one from a combination of Orange Park High School and Homeschool students, submit responses to the ACE National Competition on March 3rd. Only three teams from the 52 entries received are named as finalists. Unfortunately, we did not have a finalist this year but the students enjoyed the experience and learned a lot.



Orange Park students discuss the project with residents



ACE students discussing the program during STEM Day



ACE students pose for a group photo at STEM Day



ACE National Competition entries completed by the Orange Park / Homeschool Team

Boot Camp

Continuing a busy March, ACENEFL hosted our first Boot Camp on Saturday, March 7th. Haskell hosted 12 students from a variety of locations in their office where students learned how to access Google SketchUp and the Autodesk suite of products. Students were also introduced to the basics of the software as well as provided access to online training for them to complete later. The goal was for these students to serve as a resource at their individual locations.



ACE students participating in the ACE Boot Camp

Field Trip

On March 5th, students from all seven locations participated in a field trip. Teams got the opportunity to visit a handful of locations including the offices of Stellar, Legacy Engineering, and Miller Electric, and the construction jobsites of Brasfield and Gorrie (Vista) and DPR Construction (Baptist Tower).



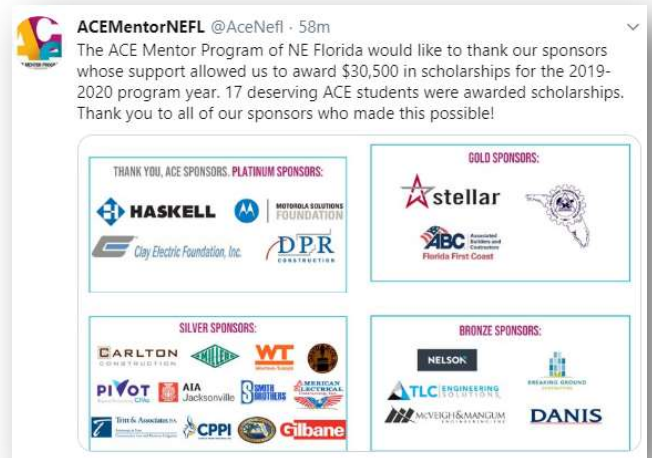
Middleburg students during a surveying lesson



ACE students visiting a construction jobsite

Fundraising Efforts

One of the primary responsibilities of our Board of Directors is fundraising. We rely on local companies as well as grants to fund the scholarships we provide for high school students, the only considerable expense we have as an organization. Fundraising efforts take place year-round but take priority during February through April. Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the typical fundraising effort was impacted. However, we still had a successful year with several company sponsors as well as the award of two grants.



2019-2020 ACENEFL Sponsors

CMiC Winner

For the second year in a row, our affiliate had a student selected as a winner of a National CMiC Alan Berg Memorial Scholarship. Katherine Harland, from the Homeschool team, was selected to win a \$30,000 scholarship as well as support during her college career. Katherine will be attending Clemson University pursuing a degree in architecture.



CMiC Alan Berg scholarship winner Katherine Harland during the surprise reveal via Zoom

Program Continues

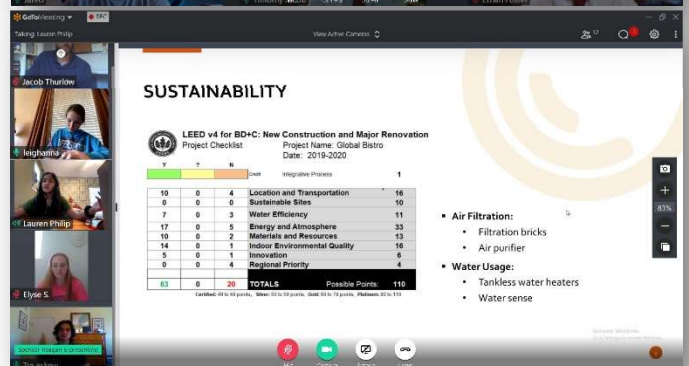
The program continued following the holiday breaks during December and ran smoothly through mid-March when the COVID-19 outbreak forced the closure of all schools. Initially, we were unsure what to do and paused the program for about a month. Once it became clear that school was not going to re-open, we began to consider alternate ways to meet. Three of our locations wanted to continue and complete the program. Students from Creekside High School, Nease High School and Homeschool continued to meet virtually with assistance from mentors as required. Mentors supported students via virtual meetings and also created a handful of video presentations that were shared with the students.



Orange Park students during a visit to a "real" kitchen facility

Virtual Presentations

Once it became clear that our End of the Year Event, scheduled at the University of North Florida on May 1st, was not going to be possible, we began to review other options. We quickly determined that virtual presentations were going to be the only way to complete our program. On Friday, May 1st, we had six teams representing three locations, Creekside, Nease and Homeschool, participate in a virtual presentation event. Each team had students participate via Gotomeeting and was provided ten minutes to present their project. A team of four professionals then provided feedback as well as asked the team questions. Though not the ideal way to complete the program, the virtual event went well and allowed for closure to the year.



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA END OF YEAR

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

Join us!

MAY 1ST, 2020 [HTTPS://GLOBAL.GOTOMEETING.COM/JOIN/719240925](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/719240925)

9:05 AM	CULINARY CONSTRUCTION (NATIONAL TEAM), CREEKSIDE
9:40 AM	CULINARY SUMMIT OF JACKSONVILLE, CREEKSIDE
10:15 AM	CUISINE CAPITAL, CREEKSIDE
10:50 AM	SHIPYARD CULTURAL EXCHANGE, CREEKSIDE
11:25 AM	NEASE PANTHERS, NEASE
12:00 PM	NEW DIMENSIONS, HOMESCHOOL

Virtual Presentation Flyer

Images from Virtual Presentations completed May 1st, 2020

Scholarships

We received 17 high school student scholarship applications and three from returning mentors. Following review by the Education Committee, each was deemed complete and a recommendation was made to fund all applicants. Awards were determined based on the Education Committee's scoring provided. At the conclusion, we decided to fund \$30,500 in scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year.



Bishop Kenny students during the field trip



Lee students pause for a group photo

End of document