

ACE Mentor News

August 2012

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WHITE HOUSE HONORS ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF AMERICA with Presidential AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING MENTORING

Last fall, ACE Mentor Program of America became one of eight recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). PAESMEM, our nation's highest award for mentoring, recognizes the critical role mentoring plays in the academic, personal, and career development of students studying science and engineering — particularly those who belong to groups that are under-represented in these fields.



Students from APR presenting their project

Charles H. Thornton, Ph.D., P.E., Chairman and Founder of ACE, and Founding Principal of the international engineering firm Thornton Tomasetti, said "All ACE mentors share in this moment, as they are the lifeblood of our organization," Dr. Thornton added, "It is because of their dedication, time, and effort, that we are able to reach and inspire wonderful young men and women."

ACE strives to provide a positive influence on high school students and encourages them to pursue careers in Architecture, Construction, and Engineering through mentoring. Mentors heighten students' awareness of career opportunities in the industry and provide advice, role-model leadership, scholarships, and more.

ACE launched its Northeast Florida affiliate in 2006 with tremendous success. Today the program includes 70 students and 42 mentors at three schools — Englewood and Orange Park High Schools and A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology.



Tom Grogan & Joseph DeMarco mentor Charlene Xia at OPHS

The multifaceted program includes college advice, field trips, and hands-on projects. The program also includes student projects and presentations. With oversight from mentors, teams of students design a hypothetical project in response to a Request for Proposal and present the project to a "Selection Committee" — teachers, students, mentors, parents, and industry professionals — at a year-end event.

Since 2006, our local ACE affiliate has awarded over \$76,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors choosing to pursue careers in the industry thanks to local industry donations.

Becoming a mentor is rewarding and easy. After background screening, you attend a few organizational meetings to plan student activities and learn about mentoring tools and practices provided by ACE. Then, simply share your enthusiasm for your profession with the students who look forward to meeting with you and truly value your input. Mentoring sessions are held once a week at each school for two hours beginning 10 minutes after the school day ends. To learn more about financial or mentoring support for ACE, visit <http://acementor.org/599> or contact Kimberly Hansen, P.E. at (904) 545-5336 (NortheastFL@acementor.org) or Terry Hull, P.E. at (904) 731-7040 (thull@taylorengeering.com).



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING
Career Directions for Students in
Architecture, Construction and Engineering



To track our events, find out about volunteer opportunities and our overall successes, please visit our website at <http://acementor.org/599>. You can also find us on Facebook and LinkedIn groups under ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida.

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NE FLORIDA

Mentor / Student / Parent Perspectives

The 2012 ACE program focused on extending the work started in 2011. Englewood High School has unique opportunities with the tools available for the students. The ACE sessions are held in the wood shop of Englewood, where there are no computers or drafting tables.

The program had a core of 8 to 9 students who were engaged and eager to learn.

We had a great time on the field trip to the four different sites. Several of the class activities became highly competitive and entertaining for the students and mentors.

Success stories included Chris, who took on the role of being a project manager, soon demonstrating his keen sense of cost assessment and scheduling acumen. The two interior designers, Michele and Taylor really showed their love for selecting materials and understanding color,



Jackie Stephens, Allan Marshall, Jeff Blount, Ben Burgess and Fred DeWitt, mentors of EHS

balance and accentuating contrasts. Charles, Anthony and Ashley became the anchors of the team and showed their flexibility to step

into any role or activity. One student, Thuy, who barely spoke a word, was able to stand up during the final presentation and speak to the entire audience.

The students designed a logo for the shirts worn by the entire team at the final presentation, which was a huge hit.

As the mentor leader, I am proud and especially honored to have participated in seeing these students learn and grow as individuals. I am thankful for Mr. Garelick and his support and dedication along with the other mentors.

Gary Walo, Team Leader
Englewood High School

Every year it is a great experience to work with the students and have the opportunity to watch them grow during the process. This year, former ACE students came back to participate as mentors. As a mentor, it is rewarding to see them share their knowledge with current students and assist with their presentations paying it forward.

We completed a field trip to a number of sites. This is always a fun event as you get the chance to connect to students outside of school and away from the ACE sessions. It is an opportunity to learn about other interests the students have. The year-end presentations are always the highlight of the year for me. They allow you to see what the students have learned and I am always amazed at what they

create, and the knowledge they express. At this event, the scholarships are also awarded. It is a great feeling to know that the money awarded will help these students achieve success in the ACE industry and to know I was a part of this is incredible.

In the five years I have participated in the program, I have had the opportunity to meet many amazing people, including students and other mentors. The program has helped me to grow personally as well, as a leader and a public speaker. It has truly been a great experience, one that I will never forget. I encourage all professionals to consider participating.

Jacob Thurlow, Team Leader
A. Philip Randolph High School

This recent year was my fourth as an ACE Mentor, and I've found it as rewarding as my first. Consecutive years of mentorship have given me the opportunity to observe growth in the aptitudes of students and mentors alike. It's rewarding to see the heightened level of maturity, responsibility, and understanding of design and construction that students develop over the course of four seasons of ACE. I'm left with a sense of pride each year.

Tahir Edwards, Team Leader
Orange Park High School



Melanie Mason, Amber Edington, Andrew Zinck and Wendy Rouse work with APR students

New Mentors' Thoughts

... there are few better feelings than that moment when you see the spark of understanding in a young student's eyes, and it triggers spontaneous independent learning. Mentoring is about having an impact on the future.

Fred DeWitt

The exposure that they (the students) received by presenting a project as a team in front of a large audience was invaluable no matter what career they choose...

They also learned to use very valuable design skills and modeling tools such as REVIT by doing three dimensional renderings of their design. And all of this was done in just a few weeks and not in a college environment but at the high school level!

Joseph DeMarco

I know the intent is for us to mentor the students, but you leave each week having been rewarded in a way that is hard to explain and isn't available in our work environment. Words cannot express how proud I was of our team's achievements throughout the season and at the competition.

Ricky Spinks

My focus is on civil engineering and construction so I am not often exposed to all of the different disciplines within architecture, construction and engineering. I probably learned as much as the students did in some sessions which was very enjoyable for me... I am very proud of our students and I can't wait to see what the future holds for them.

Ben Burgess, P.E.



Tahir Edwards mentoring OPHS students

DEDICATED TEACHERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE...



APR's
Ted Slappey



OPHS's
Pat Michael



EHS's
Frank Garelick

IMPACTS STUDENTS, MENTORS AND FAMILIES!

My first mentor was Corie Baker. She deserves so much credit for my success in drafting class. She taught me how to read an Architecture Scale even though most people say it's the hardest scale to read. She taught me not to be afraid to make a mistake because architecture is about thinking out of the box – that a mistake could actually have been a breakthrough. From there my team won, and then the next year we won again. It is because of ACE mentoring I was able to find my true potential and my love for not only architecture, but also construction as a whole.

It is easy to see that without ACE I wouldn't be the same person I am today or accomplished the goals I've reached. I became Valedictorian of my class, and I received an internship with the Army Corp of Engineers. Each day I always learn something new. Even though I may not compete in ACE anymore, I will assist each student in the upcoming years so that they too can get as much out of this program as I have — just as my mentors have done for me. Thank you to the ACE Mentor Program of NE Florida, Inc.!

Corina Helen Cain—Student

My daughter was involved with ACE for all four years of her high school. I appreciate how the mentors over the years took their time with my daughter by putting her "Under Their Wing," guiding her each year and providing her with additional knowledge about her future field of study... I will always be grateful for the ACE Mentor Program for giving my daughter a future

sight of her career, the experience of visiting construction sites, working with the professionals and the teamwork that is involved in their end-of-year projects. Special and most dear thanks go to the teachers that support this program, mentors who are directly involved with the students, companies that not only allow their employees to volunteer, but also contribute toward the scholarship awards, and most of all the Board of Directors who keep this program going and growing!!!

Corina Guerra Cain—Parent

ACE Teacher Retires

It was an honor and pleasure to have been involved in the ACE Mentor Program for the past six years. This afforded me the opportunity to work with Architects and Engineers in mentoring the students at A. Philip Randolph. The mentors provided the students with 'hands on' experience in designing commercial buildings. The students were further encouraged to continue their education by scholarships that were provided through this program. The program also provided the students with valuable networking. I hope this wonderful program continues for the students of the future!



Ted Slaphey pictured with Jacob Thurlow

Ted Slaphey

Former Drafting/CAD Instructor, APR

Local Mentor Named Exemplary ACE Mentor

Jacob C. Thurlow, LEED AP, Project Manager with Haskell, was selected as one of five Exemplary ACE Mentors on a National level. Each affiliate was allowed only one nomination and Jacob was unanimously nominated by the Northeast Florida Board of Directors. ACE National received 28 nominations from affiliates across the country. Jacob was honored May 1, 2012 at the Construction Industry Round Table in Washington, DC. ACE National also awarded the Northeast Florida affiliate with \$5,000 for scholarships to be presented in Jacob's name. ACE National was able to provide this prize money as part of the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Our local chapter also honored Jacob at our year-end luncheon on May 17, 2012 at UNF University Center.



Jacob Thurlow pictured second from left with other ACE National Exemplary Mentors

Local UNF Students Win Scholarship to Greenbuild

USGBC generously provided several scholarship slots to the ACE Mentor Program for all-inclusive trips to the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo. Greenbuild is the ideal setting for those new to the green building industry to learn from green experts, discover innovative technologies and companies that are transforming the industry, and to form worthwhile relationships within the green building movement. Preference was given to college sophomores who participated at least two years in an ACE affiliate who were pursuing a field in the green building industry. The Northeast Florida affiliate had one of the five recipients last November with UNF Junior, Mercelin Etienne, being selected.

After attending Greenbuild, Mercelin said, "The most important thing I learned at Greenbuild was how different people from different backgrounds all over the world who have diverse ideas came together as one to share their ideas about sustainable building design and construction. I really feel very fortunate to have learned so much from USGBC and my ACE mentors. My goal is to, hopefully, use everything I've learned from USGBC and educate people in my community and ACE students about sustainable building and construction."

Mercelin is now working at Auld & White Constructors, Inc., an ACE Board member firm, as an intern for the summer. Steve Auld and Tim Conlan personally referred him to their HR department.

Ashantae Bryant won the USGBC Greenbuild scholarship this year and will be attending the conference this November in San Francisco. Ashantae will also be taking a leadership position as Vice President of the new Board forming to start the Gainesville ACE affiliate this fall as she continues her studies in Architecture.



Mercelin Etienne, UNF Student & Winner of Scholarship to Greenbuild

ACE Mentor Program Awards \$15,000 in Scholarships

Year-End Event/Scholarship Awards

The Northeast Florida affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program hosted nine teams of aspiring architects, engineers and construction managers from three local high schools on May 17th at the UNF University Center.

Prior to the event, ACE mentors from local architecture, construction and engineering industry professional firms met with students for two hours once a week for 16 weeks. During these sessions, students worked in teams to create practical solutions for a “real-world” project. They all received the same Request for Proposal for a collegiate recreation center with a project budget of \$12 million. The students were given specific instructions on the spaces that needed to be included in the project, and had to create a site plan, floor plans, elevation, construction schedule, budget, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) scorecard, interiors plan and an engineering discipline board.

During this event, the student teams competed and presented their designs before judges and an audience of ACE professionals, teachers and family. Following the presentations, keynote speaker Dr. Donnie Horner, City of Jacksonville Education Commissioner, encouraged students, parents and mentors to continue with their good work. His speech also challenged the students to pay it forward once they are established in careers.



Dr. Donnie Horner

Jack Tipton, Director, Regional Programs (Southeast), ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. was also on hand to see the presentations and to congratulate Jacob C. Thurlow, LEED AP, Project Manager with Haskell, for being selected as one of five Exemplary ACE Mentors on a National level.

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida just completed its sixth year of the program. The three schools currently participating include A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology, Orange Park High School and Englewood High School. During the 2011-12

school year, ACE had 42 mentors and 70 students that participated in the program.

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Jacob Thurlow pictured with Jack Tipton, Director, Regional Programs (Southeast) at the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida Year-End



The Payoff

Scholarships were given totaling \$15,000 at the conclusion of the program – going to the graduating seniors and several former ACE students who are now in college and mentors themselves. Since 2006, the local ACE chapter has awarded over \$76,000 in scholarships to our students. Many students remain active alumni and return to help support the program. ACE has also assisted many students in obtaining employment through the strong relationships they developed with their own mentors.



Orange Park / Middleburg High School Winning Team



Englewood High School presented with their school ACE plaque



A. Philip Randolph's Winning Team



Thank you to our judges:

Steve Auld, Auld & White Constructors, LLC
 John Ellis, P.E., Legacy Engineering, Inc.
 Chung Rutter, AIA, RS&H

ACE Mentor 2012 Field Trip

In March, the ACE Mentor students from APR, OPHS and EHS enjoyed a day full of real-world experience touring jobsites throughout Jacksonville. Those sites included:

- Elkins Constructors' Haven Hospice
- Breaking Ground Contracting Office (on track for PLATINUM certification)
- Duval County Courthouse
- Haskell BIM Presentation



Your Sponsorship Dollars Matter!

In 2012, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida awarded 13 scholarships totaling \$15,000. This included three \$1,000 scholarships for college students who had participated during ACE in their high school years and returned to mentor alongside professionals from our industry. All scholarship recipients are pursuing a field of study within our industry. Financial support and mentors stream from local architecture, construction, and engineering firms, as well as professional societies and construction industry organizations. Our local affiliate is 100% volunteer, all financial support goes directly to affect the lives of students. With more mentors and financial support, the Northeast Florida affiliate's goal is to reach more students and more schools in the future.



Kimberly Hansen, P.E.
Chairman

CALL FOR MENTORS

If this newsletter has piqued your interest and you would consider donating your time, please contact us!

The program always needs more mentors and we would love to plug you in and allow you to share our enthusiasm for our profession.

Please contact **Kimberly Hansen** at NortheastFL@acementor.org or (904) 545-5336.

Recent national quantitative research proves that ACE works.

- Participants graduate high school at a higher rate than non-ACE participants
- 40% of ACE alumni enter an engineering field
- ACE increases diversity in university architecture, construction and engineering enrollment

Growth of the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida:

Year	Total Scholarships	No. of Scholarship Recipients
2007	\$ 3,000	3
2008	\$ 10,000	4
2009	\$ 15,950	14
2010	\$ 15,250	16
2011	\$ 17,400	19
2012	\$ 15,000	13

Help us change lives through our ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida.

Sincere Thanks to Sponsoring Companies and Contributors!

Your generosity makes the ACE Mentoring Program possible, and positively impacts the lives of tomorrow's industry professionals and tradespeople.



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AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PRIVATE SPONSORS!

Mentors: Englewood

Gary Walo, Team Leader, Haskell

Jeff Blount, Haskell

Ben Burgess, A.J. Johns, Inc.

Fred DeWitt, DDCI

Robert Fernandez, Danis Construction, LLC

Alan Marshall, Merit Professional Coatings of Jacksonville, LLC

Wayne Petrone, Petrone Transportation Engineering, LLC

William Schaet, Barton Mallow Company

Jackie Stephens, J. Stephens Studio, LLC

Mentors: A. Philip Randolph

Jacob Thurlow, Co-Team Leader, Haskell

Catlin Aydt, Co-Team Leader, Haskell

Corie Baker, Co-Team Leader, Pond and Company

Katie Chesney, Co-Team Leader, Elkins Constructors, Inc.

Catherine Burkee, Breaking Ground Contracting

Joanne Connell, Greenspace Interior Design

Amber Edington, Haskell

Mercelin Etienne, UNF Student

Tracey Friley, Haskell

Kevin Kernan, Haskell

Crystal Markley, US Army Corps of Engineers

Melanie Mason, Haskell

Katrina Myers, Taylor Engineering

Wendy Rouse, Florida Rock

Laney Stoddard, Atlantic Engineering Service, Inc.

Kevin Valent, Haskell

Andrew Zinck, Danis Construction, LLC

Mentors: Orange Park

Tahir Edwards, Team Leader, Haskell

Christopher Carson, NAVFAC Southeast, US Navy

David Christine, DW Christine & Associates

Michael Compton, Gresham Smith & Partners

Joseph DeMarco, Fishman & Tobin, LLC

Eric Denfield, NAVFAC Southeast, US Navy

Thomas Grogan, Haskell

Thomas Hanley, Elkins Constructors, Inc.

Fred Heyne

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Richard Peters, Reynolds Smith & Hills

Joseph Shepard, Haskell

Ricky Spinks, The Angelo Group



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