ACE Mentor News

October 2016

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc.

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ACE Expands To Reach More Students

Since our establishment in 2006, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, a 501(c)(3) organization, has realized tremendous success in our local communities. The program's mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in the integrated construction industry through mentoring; and to support their continued advancement in the industry through scholarships and grants. This year, the program included four local high schools – Creekside High School, Lee High School, Middleburg High School, and Orange Park High School in St. Johns, Duval and Clay Counties. Additionally, we have a team of Homeschool students which met at the offices of two of our supporters, Auld & White Constructors and TLC Engineering for Architecture.

The multifaceted program includes college advice, field trips, and hands-on projects. 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. In addition to our traditional program, this was our fourth year having a National Competition team from Orange Park High School (OPHS) and our first year of having a Homeschool National Competition Team. We are proud to say that our OPHS National Competition team was one of nine finalists selected from across the country to present their project in Washington, D.C. this year and they came in first place in their category for a bridge design.

We had an extremely successful year with approximately 90 students and 55 mentors working together to create the exciting projects that were presented at our End-of-Year Presentations and Scholarship Awards luncheon on May 20, 2016. This year's project was a redevelopment of three historic structures in downtown Jacksonville, known as the Laura Street Trio. Students had their choice to propose renovations for one of the three buildings. At the celebratory luncheon, we were able to award \$19,250 in scholarships for our students this year, thanks to the generosity of our professional and private donors. Since our establishment in 2006, we have awarded almost \$150,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors and college-level students choosing to pursue careers in the industry.

We thank all of our students, parents, teachers, mentors, and Board Members for an extremely successful year and look forward to expanding our program and reaching more students in the local community in the years to come. The diligence and dedication our students have for the program gives us great hope for the future of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering industries.





ARCHITECTURE - CONSTRUCTION - ENGINEERING

Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering









ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NE FLORIDA

Orange Park High School National Team Wins Challenge in CIRT Competition!

For the second straight year, the Orange Park High School (OPHS) team earned a trip to Washington, D.C. after judges selected their entry as one of nine finalists from 55 entries from across the nation. In the afternoon round of judging, OPHS student Tom McClymont presented their project to a panel of judges. OPHS was selected as the best entry for the "Bridge Design / Redesign & Construction Challenge" category. After the evening round presentation, the OPHS team was ranked third overall of the 55 national

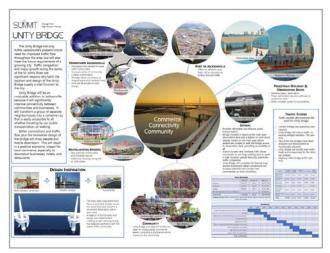


Pictured left to right: Kenny Windham, Doug Barrows, Ted Jahn, Michael Mancil, Camden Dean, Brian Reed, Liam De Marco, Tom McClymont, Christopher Osborne, Natalia Cordero, Michael Nee, Destiny Childress, Joe De Marco and Mary Ellen De Marco

entries. The event was held on April 25, 2016. The entire team was present, as well as mentors, Joe De Marco, Mary Ellen De Marco and Crystal Markley, and teachers, Doug Barrows and Ted Jahn.

The proposed Unity Bridge will connect Jacksonville's sports and entertainment district just east of the downtown business district with the Southbank and most of Jacksonville's population via the I-95 corridor. The bridge will help connect and enhance proposed mega-developments on both banks of the St. Johns River. Automobile and truck traffic will use four lanes designed and built to interstate highway standards. Local traffic will have ramps to access the stadium area and the Southbank. Two dedicated lanes will provide a river crossing for Jacksonville's Automated Skyway Express monorail system. The skyway expansion will connect stadium parking areas to downtown during the work week and downtown parking areas to the stadium during football games and other special events. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic will have a separate dedicated lane and observation decks. The overall construction budget is estimated to be \$357 million.





The National teams start earlier and are on a much more rigorous schedule than the other ACE students competing locally. The hours they and the mentors pour into a competition is simply astounding, and this year we had two teams in the race – OPHS and a group of Homeschool students. Truly amazing work done by both teams. They have made the rest of the nation stand up and take notice of this Northeast Florida affiliate.

Teacher Recognition

We truly appreciate the dedication of the teachers who donate their personal time to the ACE Mentor Program. The following teachers were essential to the 2015-2016 program success:

- Creekside High School Mr. Kevin Davenport
- Lee High School Ms. Monique Bell
- Middleburg High School Mr. Chise Apiata
- Orange Park High School Mr. Doug Barrows and Mr. Ted Jahn
- Homeschool Facilitators Ms. Kim Ebbers and Ms. Brynde Connor

"ACE is a perfect extension to what we do in the classroom. It is great to see motivated students and real-world professionals work together." - Kevin Davenport

"The ACE Mentoring program is a wonderful opportunity to expose students to fields that in my opinion are underrepresented in the media. My students love the program and look forward each year to working on the RFP and the field trips." – *Monique Bell*

IMPACTS STUDENTS, MENTORS AND FAMILIES!

Local ACE Mentor Selected As National Outstanding Mentor



Crystal Markley, P.E. was selected as one of six 2016 ACE-ENR
Outstanding Mentors. The competition was especially keen this year. Other winners from among the 22 nominations come from the Boston, Twin Cities, San Diego, Central Florida (Orlando) and Indiana affiliates. This is not the first time a mentor from our affiliate was awarded this honor. Previous winners

include Jacob Thurlow and Joe De Marco.

Crystal has made an incalculable difference in Northeast Florida as an outstanding mentor who has impacted students, fellow mentors and our local affiliate. She has been mentoring with the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida for 10 years, and is a long-time board member as well. Crystal is a Lead Civil Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.

Monique Bell, Engineering Academy Department Chair at Lee High, recognized Crystal's "positive, encouraging and friendly attitude towards all the students and mentors" in a recent letter of recommendation.

Crystal's greatest impact on students has been continuing the

mentoring relationship with several ACE students after graduation. Crystal has given college/education advice, provided referrals for internships and helped guide several ACE students after high school graudation and as they enter the professional world. One such student, Corina Cain, was so inspired by Crystal's example, she returned to ACE as a mentor.

Fellow mentor and engineer Brian Warfield noted that Crystal's commitment to ACE includes using Paid Time Off benefits from her job to volunteer for ACE. Warfield said it was "immediately apparent that she was passionate about passing on her engineering knowledge to the next generation" when he first met Crystal.

In addition to ACE, Crystal volunteers in a variety of STEM-related activities. She is active in the Society of Military Engineers, and has held numerous leadership positions with American Society of Civil Engineers, including President of the Jacksonville Branch (2005-2006) and President of the Florida Section (2009-2010).

Most notably, Crystal is a leader in Engineers without Borders, working with communities to design and implement sustainable clean water projects in Guatemala and Honduras, helping communities meet basic water needs.

The award was formally presented on April 25, 2016, in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the spring meetings of the ACE National Board and the finals of the National Design Competition.

2016 Field Trip

The ACE field trip was another jammed packed day of activity this year. Students and mentors participated in four locations around the downtown area, culminating in a site visit to the Laura Street Trio, the subject of their student project.

The Jacksonville Jaguars stadium is undergoing major renovations, and the ACE field trip groups were treated to an up close and personal tour of the progress being made inside the stadium to the club seating area, and also to some of the special event space inside the stadium. Cameras were not allowed on the tour; special shout out to Brasfield & Gorrie for hosting our five teams and providing special safety yellow t-shirts for the event that memorialized the ACE visit to the stadium project.



The next stop was a concrete experience at Argos. The group was introduced to the basic types of concrete and how they have evolved historically to be used for different construction applications. Demonstrations on concrete strength testing and admixture testing were also

observed.

The much-anticipated visit to the Laura Street trio was next. This set of three buildings is planned for development after sitting vacant for a period of time. This visit was an opportunity for the students to investigate their project site, evaluate potential options for renovations and take site photos and measurements to use in their proposed design and presentation, there was a lot of activity



at this stop. It is not every day that students get a chance to get up close to a building that has reached the end of its design life and is in need of renovation.

For the final stop, the team visited the offices of a local

architecture/interior design firm, Gresham Smith & Partners. Located on the top floor of one of the iconic Jacksonville skyline buildings one block from the Jacksonville Landing, this recently renovated work space was as innovative as it was functional. Featuring an open work space format and including multiple team gathering spaces, the students got to observe how the collaborative design process was complimented by the design of the office space itself. The 360-degree view of downtown that was observable from the office was amazing, especially on a clear sunny day. From the office where the design begins, to the

construction materials, to active construction, to buildings past their initial design life in need of renovation, this year's ACE field trip provided a look at all the different phases in the building construction life cycle process.



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NE FLORIDA

Student Perspectives

"I feel like this program is amazing for leadership opportunities and connections within the engineering community. It's an awesome feeling knowing you will make a difference in your engineering career field. I feel like the program gives me the extra boost I need within starting my career off." — Kristian King (Lee)

"The ACE program has affected me by opening my brain to other things and responsibilities than those that are in the engineering or architecture fields. Because of ACE, I will most likely become an engineer after college." – Thomas Edwards (Lee)

"Through the assistance of our ACE mentors, we have expanded our knowledge farther than we could ever have imagined in high school." – *Kelly Hayes (Creekside)*

"The ACE program has changed my life and my experience of the career I want to pursue. Because of ACE, I know this field is for me, though it is a bit stressful; but it has made me learn about many other jobs in the field that I might be interested in as well." – Deborah Bonnett (Lee)

"It was confusing at first but with the help of the mentors I got the hang of it." – Kayla Morrison (Lee)

"ACE Nationals, or ACE Nat, has become a major part of my life. It has become like a second home in Mr. Barrows' classroom and sometimes during the year when ACE is at its most intense, we often spend more time at the school than at our own homes; but this is what helps to make the team like a family. We are all connected through the shared experiences and the love for engineering, architecture, and other related fields. The really incredible part is that all of us are still connected even after graduation. For instance, we have had graduates who are in college and have come back to become junior mentors for the team. Other team members have gone off to college with plans to open and/or assist ACE teams at local high schools near them.

Over the past three years, the ACE mentoring program has helped me to build connections and life skills that I have applied throughout my life; both in school and out. Some of these skills are time management, presentation skills, public speaking, and teamwork.



ACE has taught me the importance of planning out and scheduling the order things need to be completed and making sure that there is plenty of time for last minute changes and alterations before it is due.

The greatest skill to have when working in a team is by far communication; without it, tension starts to build and over time it becomes detrimental to the team. By clearly communicating

with everyone and making sure that everyone has a voice and feels valued, it makes it all work smoothly and gets the work accomplished faster. This leads to a more dedicated team who shows up on time, is attentive at the meetings, and is willing to put forth the effort to work and get the job done. All of these skills I have been able to apply to more than just ACE. An example of this was for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) where Destiny Childress and I were able to apply the skills we had both learned from ACE to competing in FBLA at the National Conference.

ACE has also helped to strengthen my presentation skills and public speaking. I had been selected to be the speaker for the ACE Nat team this year when we went to Washington D.C. and had to practice presenting in front of mock judges and an audience. Through the help of the team, mentors, teachers, and others who volunteered their time, I was able to slowly build my confidence and develop my speech for the project. This skill will follow me throughout the rest of my life.

Therefore, I am connected through ACE and the family that it provides. I am grateful to all of the mentors and teachers who have helped over the years, without whom I do not know where I would be or where ACE would be. Thank you to all of them for what they have done for the teams and for me." – *Tom McClymont (OPHS)*

Mentor Perspectives

"It's exciting to see high school students show an interest in the ACE field and to come up with innovative solutions to problems they are given." – Bub Lenoir, NAVFAC Southeast

"Watching the creative process of these young minds is astounding." – Adrienne Wilson, NAVFAC Southeast

"While participating in the ACE program as a mentor, I hoped that I was able to contribute to the profession through others because the continuity and advancement of the profession is derived from such relationships. It was truly rewarding to know that I was able to help someone, even if it is in a small way.

Below are two quotes that I personally like to keep close:

Quote 1 – Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Quote 2 – Be mindful of your thoughts, for your thoughts become your words. Be mindful of your words, for your words become your actions. Be mindful of your actions, for your actions become your habits. Be mindful of your habits, for your habits become your character. Be mindful of your character, for your character becomes your destiny." – Leon T. Wiliams, AIA, Stellar

"As the Homeschool Facilitator for the regional homeschool teams, I was amazed to watch the change in the two teams as the projects progressed. They went from not knowing each other to presenting a unified project. The knowledge and encouragement that the mentors poured into the students was insightful. Getting an inside look into the different disciplines involved in the architecture, construction and engineering fields has helped some of the students determine their future career path. The teamwork that was fostered during this project was something that I know the students will use during their college and work experience in the future. My son and I are looking forward to continuing to participate in this program through the rest of his high school years. And who knows? One day he may be able to join ACE as a mentor." — Brynde Connor, Regional Homeschool Facilitator

IMPACTS STUDENTS, MENTORS AND FAMILIES!

Year-End Event

The University of North Florida again hosted the annual end-of-year presentations for the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida on May 20, 2016. The program had the returning schools of Lee High School, Orange Park High School, Middleburg High School and Homeschool students, in addition to first-time ACE participant, Creekside High School in St. Johns County. The student teams had prepared since January to respond to an RFP for the redevelopment of their choice of three historic structures in downtown Jacksonville, known as the Laura Street Trio.



































Floor plans and elevations were required, as well as a schedule and a budget. The teams had some flexibility after that, being

able to select one engineering system to study, and developing interior finishes and sustainability strategies. Because of the large number of teams and tight deadline for the program, this year we had simultaneous presentations in two rooms. They were carefully evaluated by this year's judges:

- Tom Goldsbury, PE, City of Jacksonville
- Tom Hurst, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Dasher Hurst Architects
- Mario Lambert, Associate AIA, RS&H
- Steve Sandefer, PE, Miller Electric
- Tony Suttles, Danis Construction
- Rafi Wartan, PE, LEED AP BD+C, TLC Engineering for Architecture.



For the runoff, the judges were sequestered in a room to compare scores for the teams that presented in the two separate rooms. Then came the runoff. We had an amazingly talented group of students this year. Competition was tighter than ever. The winners were:

- Best Overall Middleburg High School: Team Middleburg Institute of Architecture
- Best Approach Lee High School: Team Antique Modern Industries
- Best Presentation Creekside High School: Team Greener Light

The National teams from Homeschool students and Orange Park High School gave their presentations on Shore Living and Unity Bridge, respectively, to wrap up the during lunch, as well as mentor and teacher appreciation awards, and scholarship awards.

Women in Construction Respond to Workforce Crisis

The Associated Builders and Contractors Florida First Coast Women's Council raised more than \$5,000 at an event earlier this year which directly benefits local students involved in the ACE Mentor Program.

"ABC and its Women's Council have supported ACE Mentor Program since its arrival in northeast Florida 10 years ago," explained ABC President Karin Tucker. "ACE helps prepare students to work in this industry, and quality employees are in high demand."

During the economic downturn, enrollment in construction, engineering and architecture



degree programs diminished. As the economy has rebounded, the need for qualified professionals has grown.

"Our contribution this year is five-fold what we've been able to do in recent years," explained ABC Women's Council Chair Amy Turci.

"It's a reflection of our Council's passion for supporting the next generation of this industry's workforce, and a testament to the success of our volunteers."

The ABC Women's Council Mission is to promote, support, encourage and provide a voice for women in the construction industry through the fostering of relationships, professional development, legislative involvement and philanthropic endeavors.

2016 Scholarship Awards

Student	Amount	School	Intended Major	Scholarship Sponsor
Michael Nee	\$1,500	Orange Park High School	Civil or Environmental Engineering	ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida Founder's Scholarship
Violette Otero	\$1,500	Founders Year 2	Mechanical Engineering	ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida Founder's Scholarship
Charlene Xia	\$1,000	Founders Year 4	Engineering	ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida Founder's Scholarship
Brian Gaines	\$1,500	UNF Student Mentor	Civil Engineering	Haskell
Paulo Dos Santos	\$1,500	Middleburg High School	Construction Management	Associated Builders & Contractors, Florida First Coast
Donavan Durig	\$1,500	Orange Park High School	Mechanical Engineering	Florida Healthcare Engineers Association
Kenny Windham	\$1,500	Junior Mentor (Former OPHS ACE)	Architecture	Northeast Florida Builders Association
Timothy DelCharco	\$1,000	Homeschool	Mechanical Engineering	Northeast Florida Builders Association
Rowan Blalock-Bassett	\$1,000	Creekside High School	Biomedical Engineering	Gresham Smith & Partners
Cole Hewett	\$1,000	Orange Park High School	Civil Engineering	Gresham Smith & Partners
Jada Bolden	\$1,000	Lee High School	Architecture	Associated Builders & Contractors, Florida First Coast Women's Council
Ashantae Green	\$1,000	Junior Mentor (Former APR HS ACE)	Sustainability	Associated Builders & Contractors, Florida First Coast Women's Council
Brian Reed	\$1,000	Orange Park High School	Computer Science	Miller Electric Company
Griffin Reilly	\$1,000	Creekside High School	Civil Engineering	Griggs Group
Robert Widhalm	\$750	Middleburg High School	Mechanical Engineering or Architecture	AIA Jacksonville
Arielle O'Neal	\$750	Lee High School	Mechanical Engineering	Integrated Construction
Brandon Woodrum	\$750	Creekside High School	Computer Engineering	Tritt & Associates, P.A.

Ways You Can Support ACE

United Way of Northeast Florida

If you already donate to the United Way of Northeast Florida, would you please consider designating "ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida" to benefit from your donation?

Amazon Smile

Support Us when You Shop Amazon.com

Amazon.com has a program for non-profits that will contribute 0.5% of your total purchase to our local NE Florida Affiliate of ACE Mentor, which is a fantastic opportunity to make small contributions to ACE throughout the year with your everyday purchases!

Please follow the link below and use your current Amazon.com log-in/password information. http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5462738

Products you wish to purchase and that are eligible for the 0.5% contribution will have the following statement on the item's information page (essentially items sold directly by Amazon.com):

Eligible amazonsmile for donation

Complete your transaction as normal, and ACE will receive the 0.5% contribution deposited to our accounts quarterly.

Thank you, everyone and Happy Shopping!

In-Kind Donations

In-kind donations are a way your organization or association can help as well. Examples include field trip meals, supplies, printing, transportation costs, etc. Contact us at NortheastFL@acementor.org.

Your Sponsorship Dollars Matter!

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 e-mail us at NortheastFL@acementor.org.

In 2016, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida expanded to St. Johns County with the addition of Creekside High School and awarded 17 college scholarships totaling \$19,250. All scholarship recipients are pursuing a field of study within our industry.

Our local affiliate is 100% volunteer; our professional mentors selflessly donate their time. Financial support and mentors stream from local architecture, construction, and engineering firms, as well as professional societies and construction industry organizations. All financial support goes straight to affect the lives of students. We proudly acknowledge and sincerely thank our benefactors and want to let you know how your dollars are hard at work. With more mentors and financial support, the Northeast Florida Affiliate wants to reach more students and more schools in the future.

For a donation of \$1,000 or more, you can present a named scholarship at our Awards Banquet in May of 2017 on behalf of your organization. The sponsorship levels are:

\$1000+	Named scholarship, logo on all printed materials and website		
\$500-\$999	Logo on printed materials and website		
Up to \$499 Name only on printed materials and website			

Sincere Thanks to Sponsoring Companies and Contributors!

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













Founders Scholarship

























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AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PRIVATE SPONSORS!

2015-2016 ACE Mentors

Creekside High School

Adrienne Wilson, NAVFAC, Co-Team Leader Tim Conlan, Auld & White Constructors, Co-Team

Leader

Robert Fernandez, Danis Construction, Mentor

Coordinator

Bub Lenoir, NAVFAC

Marie Hurst, Nemours

Homeschool

Bryan Judah, Tritt & Associates, National Team Leader
Wayne Petrone, Peters & Yaffee, Inc., Team Leader
Kim Ebbers, Homeschool National Team Coordinator
Brynde Connor, Homeschool Team Coordinator
Jeff Auld, McVeigh & Mangum Engineering

Rafael Caldera, Arkest

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Joe Nagy, Trane

Leslie Pennington, BCBS of Florida

Michael Petrone, TLC Engineering for Architecture

Christine Spendiff, NAVFAC

Ryan Snow, Gilbane Company, Mentor Coordinator

Richard Westheimer, Pond and Company
Leon Williams. Stellar

Lee High School

Brian Warfield, Haskell, Team Leader

Crystal Markley, Civil Engineer, Mentor Coordinator

Michelle Belloit, WPC Industrial Contractors

Todd Crane, NAVFAC

Ken Duncan, Haskell

Tracey Friley, Haskell

Ashantae Green, FSCJ Student

Ashley Nettles, Southeastern Grocers, LLC

Jennifer Suharmadji, Stellar

Andrew Zinck, Danis Construction

Middleburg High School

Scott Fraser, DESIGN DEVELOPMENT Architecture

Inc., Team Leader

Wendell Hall, Bhide & Hall

Tom Hanley, Elkins

Chuck Kohler, Civil Engineer

Doug Mercer, NAVFAC

Orange Park High School

Joe De Marco, Fishman & Tobin, National Team
Leader

Tom Grogan, Haskell, Co-Team Leader

Lynn Ladd, NAVFAC, Co-Team Leader

Ken Loefgren, Loefgren & Associates, Co-Team Leader

Michael Brooks, Clay County Building Division

Karen Campbell, NAVFAC

Mary Ellen De Marco, St. Catherines

Renee Dudgeon, NAVFAC William Durig, NAVFAC

Brian Gaines, UNF Student

Fred Heyne, DB Kenyon

Carolyn Mercer, Kelly Services, Inc.

Doug Mercer, NAVFAC

Lee Merrill, NAVFAC

Violette Otero, Student

David Smith, TranSystems, Inc.

Kenny Windham, Student



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