

# ACE Mentor News

August 2011

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc.

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## Students Discover Career Opportunities in the Design and Construction Industry

The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is an after-school mentoring program that has completed its fifth year in the Jacksonville area. Founded in 2006, we are an affiliate of the ACE national organization ([www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)).



### Career Opportunities

ACE exposes students to potential careers in the construction industry through instruction on sustainable design, architecture, engineering and construction, including estimating and scheduling. Industry professionals mentor the students, introducing them to the careers, industry vocabulary, and the various roles companies play in the construction industry. The students are exposed to real-life construction experiences through field trips to local construction sites and the offices of design professionals. The students use this new knowledge to work closely with their mentors to prepare and develop a design and construction project.

### About ACE

ACE is a non-profit organization supported by local construction industry companies, organizations and individual donors. Students who participate in the ACE program have the opportunity to apply for scholarships made possible by our generous donors. Our donors, mentors and Board of Directors spend countless hours working to support the ACE mission.

Since 2006, the local ACE chapter has awarded over \$61,000.00 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.



**Mentor Team Leaders**  
Jacob Thurlow (APRHS), Becky Riley (EHS),  
and Tahir Edwards (OPHS)

ACE served three Jacksonville area high schools in the 2010 - 2011 school year: A. Philip Randolph High School, Orange Park High School and Englewood High School. ACE is hopeful that with continued support of the construction community and its invaluable mentors, that it will be able to expand to additional high schools in the near future.

  
**ACE**  
Mentor Program  
Career Directions for  
Students in Architecture,  
Construction and Engineering  
[www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)



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



# ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NE FLORIDA

## Student / Parent / Mentor Perspectives

"The experience I have had with the ACE Mentor Program has been life changing. Each year it is great to work with the students and watch them grow during the process. The end of the year presentations allow you to see what the students have learned. I am always amazed at what they create and the knowledge they express. 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."

**Jacob C. Thurlow, LEED AP, Haskell**  
Mentor Team Leader at A. Philip Randolph

"The ACE Mentor Program has been a rewarding experience. It's given me the opportunity to pair my excitement about



Orange Park Mentors

teaching, education, and learning with my passion for practicing architecture. I always encourage the students to push their creative boundaries while remaining within the realm of practical construction processes, as I strive for personally and professionally, to develop into a more knowledgeable and experienced Architect."

**Tahir Edwards, AIA, Haskell**  
Mentor Team Leader at Orange Park High School

"The ACE Mentor Program of NE Florida has been an awesome experience for our son, Demagio. This program is an excellent way to get students exposed to this profession. The program has given our son the opportunity of internship with local firms in the area. My husband and I are so amazed at the level of dedication the companies take in this program. The collaboration of project planning, mentoring, and educating are outstanding! ACE has helped our son be more creative, and to think outside of the box. He has definitely achieved leadership skills and presenting skills through this program. The presentation of the final projects is amazing!"

**Tasha Martin-Mansell, Parent**

"I really enjoyed being a part of it (ACE program). I especially enjoyed working with the students from Orange Park HS, along with all the mentors. The students were so enthusiastic. Joining them every week to share was enjoyable and something that I looked forward to."

**Linda DeLeo, LEED AP, Mentor**

"I have been an ACE member for four years and it has been amazing to watch the transformation of quiet young men and women into confident teams of presenters of complex project issues. Every year I start the program with thoughts of, 'How are these students ever going to get to



APR Mentors

be as good as the teams from the end of the previous year?' And every year, the students have blown me away with how much they learn, understand and present in outstanding fashion. It is really impressive to see how much of the knowledge of the mentors is transferred to the students and how well the students use their new found abilities. The skills that the students gain in presentation is as valuable, if not more valuable, than the industry training that they receive."

**Ryan Fryman, PE, LEED AP BD+C, CxA**  
Mentor, TLC Engineering for Architecture

"ACE has been a terrific program for me throughout my high school years and now college. The skills I learned from my mentors and group projects I worked on really helped me with my college courses and prepared me for an internship I'm currently doing this summer. I'm also very thankful for the scholarship I was awarded from ACE to pay for my college education!"

**Mercelin Etienne**

UNF - Construction Management Junior & ACE Scholarship Recipient

## Senior Comments from Scholarship Recipients

"I expect to face challenges and learn new things while I'm in college, but I believe that no other program has better prepared me for it than the ACE Mentoring Program."

"I learned a great deal of important lessons about architecture, construction, engineering and life in general through ACE. I have learned how to work well with others, the importance of meeting deadlines, leadership, how to communicate ideas, time management and public speaking."

"When I make it, when I become successful, I will not forget about ACE and plan to give back and be a generous sponsor and mentor in the future."

"'You must be the change you wish to see in the world' - Mahatma Gandhi. Thank you ACE for being that change. I would like to take this opportunity to genuinely thank you for all that you do and will continue to do. I will carry on your legacy and promise I will not let you down."



Englewood Mentors

"ACE has opened so many doors and created so many relationships for me. I want to be successful not just for my dad and myself, but for the others in my life."

"Being a part of the ACE Mentoring Program has given me the opportunity to gain several internship opportunities over the last two years."

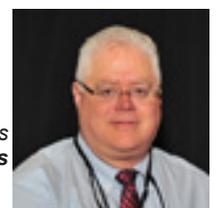
## DEDICATED TEACHERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE...



APR's  
**Ted Slappey**



OPHS's **Pat Michaels**



EHS's  
**Floyd Evans**

# IMPACTS STUDENTS, MENTORS AND FAMILIES!

## The ACE-USGBC Sustainable Design Award Program



The ACE Mentor Program of America (ACE) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) have created the Sustainable Design Award program exclusively for junior and senior high school students registered in the ACE program. The Award program is an optional addition to the regular ACE Mentor Program. Our affiliate participated in the pilot program last year.

Earning the Sustainable Design Award will demonstrate that a student is able at a basic level to evaluate green buildings on strategies, elements of sustainable design and construction, and benefits to the environment/occupant/owner. Participation in the Award program will offer ACE students an opportunity for one-on-one, virtual mentoring with recognized experts in green design and construction practices.

The ACE-USGBC Sustainable Design Award program offers ACE students a valuable learning experience. Further, it points them along the path to eventually becoming a LEED Accredited Professional.

Because the Award program operates virtually over the web, students enjoy flexibility when and where they complete Award requirements. Likewise, mentors can review students' work and communicate with them on their own schedule.

All eligible students are welcome to join the program without charge. It requires approximately 12 hours of work.



2011 ACE Scholarship Winners

### USGBC Greenbuild Scholarship Program

USGBC has 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 will be given to college sophomores who participated at least two years in an ACE affiliate who is pursuing a field in the green building industry. Applications will be due in July each year for the conference in October. Our affiliate had one of

the five this year with UNF Junior, Mercelin Etienne, being selected.

### THANKS TO OUR JUDGES

**Holly King, AIA, NAVFAC, Jacksonville**  
**John Irvin, Ajax Building Corporation**  
**Keith M. Nix, P.E., McVeigh & Mangum Engineering, Inc.**

### A special thanks to all of our local and State leaders who have supported our efforts, including:

Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll  
Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice - Secretary Wansley Walters and Deputy Regional Director Edgar Mathis  
Senator Stephen Wise  
Representative Charles Van Zant  
Former Mayor John Peyton  
UNF President - John Delaney  
Duval County Public Schools - Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals  
Clay County Public Schools -Superintendent Ben Wortham; Board Chair - Frank Farrell  
Orange Park H.S. Principal - Treasure Pickett  
Jacksonville Children's Commission - Keri Corey  
Fresh Ministries - Rev. Robert F. Lee, III



### ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS, INC.

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) continued its commitment to the ACE Mentor program during the 2010-2011 school year. ABC First Coast Chapter member firms in conjunction with ABC National have been proud to support the efforts of the ACE Mentor Program for the past five years. Our chapter members have volunteered their time and energy as mentors, board members and made financial contributions to numerous student scholarships. The ABC Women's Council has also presented scholarships to female students in the program. During the past two years, the Annual Casino Night Event has been used as an outreach tool to promote the ACE Mentor Program to the community and raise scholarship funds. ABC strongly believes in the mission of ACE and will continue to support its efforts to introduce high school students to careers in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction professions.

# ACE Mentor Program Awards Over \$ 17,000 in Scholarships

## The Work

During the 2010-2011 school year, 66 Jacksonville area high school students participated in the ACE Mentor Program. Each of the students spent 16 weeks working one-on-one



with a mentor from the local construction industry, including mentors from architecture and engineering firms. ACE focuses on exposing students to potential careers in the construction industry through instruction on such topics as sustainable design, engineering, estimating and scheduling. Students also have the opportunity to tour current construction projects and visit offices of the mentors working with ACE. The students are then challenged to address real-life construction issues as they work with

their mentor to develop a final construction project.

This year's project required students to draft a proposal for the design and construction of a single-family home on one of three urban site locations. The design requirements for the home included:

- that the home must be between 2,000 and 3,000 square feet;
- that the home must include a living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and three bathrooms; and
- that the home must be designed to correspond with its surrounding elements.

Part way through the project, students were faced with new challenges when they received owner input, such as the request for a front porch, a dining room that could seat 10 people, and the use of energy-efficient lighting. Other sustainable design concepts were also required.



## The Payoff

All of this hard work culminated in a luncheon and awards ceremony held at the University of North Florida on May 20, 2011. At the ceremony, nine student teams presented their construction projects to a room packed with leaders of the local Jacksonville construction industry, ACE mentors and family.

The projects were evaluated on multiple fronts, including the:

- Quality of the presentation
- Site plan
- Floor plan(s)
- Engineering plan
- Elevation(s)
- Interior finish selection board
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating
- Zoning and building code analysis
- Project schedule
- Cost estimate

Teams were also encouraged to provide physical models or renderings.

ACE awarded over \$17,000 in scholarships to the graduating seniors this year, bringing the total scholarships awarded by the local ACE chapter to over \$61,000 since 2006. Clay County School Board Member, Charlie Van Zant, closed the luncheon with words of encouragement to the students.



*OPHS Winners and overall Winners*



*Award presented to team members with the "Best RFP Response"*

*APR Winners with Model*



## ACE 2011 Fieldtrip Highlights

During the 2011 field trip, students visited the Duval County Courthouse, currently under construction. Afterward, one group of students visited the UNF Science and Humanities Building, which was also under construction. While at UNF, they had an opportunity to eat lunch at the



Students visiting Duval County Courthouse

UNF Student Union and then enjoyed a walk around campus. UNF students were walking to class, relaxing in the grass, and some tables were set up where students were trying to get a petition signed. The experience gave the ACE students a birds-eye view of potential college life. The second group of students



Students visiting KBJ Architects' office

visited the offices of KBJ Architects where they were provided lunch and then participated in a tour of KBJ's office obtaining valuable experience, as they were able to see first-hand Architects working together solving real life design issues.

## Your Sponsorship Dollars Matter!

Every year, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida has continued to grow - both in the number of student lives we are able to touch and inspire and in the amount of dollars we have been able to award in scholarships. This growth is only enabled because of the efforts of our professional volunteers who selflessly devote their time and with the very generous monetary support of our sponsors, both corporate and individuals. Locally, ACE is a 100% volunteer organization, no paid staff, your dollars go straight to affect the lives of the students. We proudly acknowledge and sincerely thank our benefactors and want to let you know how our dollars are hard at work. We have

received proof of enrollment from students utilizing 97% of the dollars awarded in 2010, these students are pursuing careers in ACE-related fields at colleges and universities such as UNF, UF, FSCJ, SJRCC, Embry-Riddle and the Naval Academy.

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

2011 also saw the establishment of our affiliate's Founder's Scholarship by Denise Ramsey, Immediate-Past Chairman and former ACE mentor. She has committed to fund a scholarship of \$1,000 a year for four years each year to a student pursuing a ACE career and who participated in ACE all four high school years.



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 [Kimberly@elkinsconstructors.com](mailto:Kimberly@elkinsconstructors.com) or (904) 265-5292.

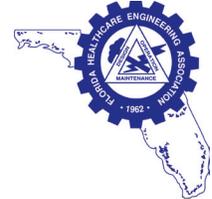
Help us change lives through our ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida.

# 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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PB Property Management

SMPS

TLC Engineering for Architecture

And Thank You to all of our Private Sponsors!



## Mentors: Orange Park

Tiffany Chastain, The Haskell Company  
David Christine, Gresham Smith & Partners  
Susan Cleveland, Susan R. Cleveland Interiors  
Michael Compton, Gresham Smith & Partners  
Linda DeLeo, Linda DeLeo Design, LLC  
Chris Densmore, Kasper Architecture  
Tahir Edwards, The Haskell Company  
Jonathan Essa, The Haskell Company  
Anthony Ford, Summit Contractors Group  
Stephen Gartman, Gresham Smith & Partners  
Aryak Goswami, The Haskell Company  
Thomas Grogan, The Haskell Company  
Thomas Hanley, Elkins Constructors  
Kenneth Lofgren, Woods Engineering  
Bill Mills, Auld & White Constructors  
Joseph Nagy, Trane  
Richard Peters, Reynolds Smith & Hills  
Kimberly Rochester, BUY-1 Math Center  
Joe Shepard, The Haskell Company

## Mentors: Englewood

Pipes Andrews, A-1 Plumbing,  
Heating, AC & Refrigeration  
Jeff Blount, The Haskell Company  
Daniel Davis, Elkins Constructors  
Ryan Fryman, TLC Engineering for Architecture  
David Glotfelty, Turner Construction Company  
Rebecca Riley, TLC Engineering for Architecture  
Charlie Rocheleau, The Haskell Company  
Joanna Rodriguez, Powell Design Group  
Albert Rodriguez, Powell Design Group  
William Schaet, Barton Mallow Company  
Margaret Simone, Turner Construction Company  
Thomas Tucker, TLC Engineering for Architecture  
Gary Walo, The Haskell Company

## Mentors: A. Philip Randolph

Corie Baker, JSA, Inc.  
Catherine Burkee, Breaking Ground Contracting  
Katie Chesney, Elkins Constructors, Inc.  
Joanne Connell, Greenspace Interior Design  
Ken Duncan, The Haskell Company  
Amber Edington, The Haskell Company  
Charmaine Ervin, FSCJ Student, Former  
ACE Participant  
Tracey Friley, The Haskell Company  
Conor Goodson, Turner Construction Co.  
Crystal Markley, USACE  
Melanie Mason, The Haskell Company  
Jonathan Peters, The Haskell Company  
Wendy Rouse, Florida Rock  
David Schoening, The Haskell Company  
Laney Stoddard, Atlantic Engineering Service, Inc.  
Jackie Stephens, J. Stephens Studio, LLC  
Jacob Thurlow, The Haskell Company  
Kevin Valent, The Haskell Company



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