



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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**ACE Mentor Program of
America**

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MORE THAN 500 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLACED IN PAID SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS AT TOP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FIRMS

Philadelphia, PA – September 13, 2022 “I had the most amazing time externing...Everyone was extremely kind, supportive, and informative. I definitely want to have an opportunity to extern again...in the next few years and I potentially see a future interning in college or even working there if that’s what I choose to pursue!”

In the summer of 2022, the ACE Mentor Program of America placed more than 500 high school students in paid externships with architecture, construction, and engineering firms across the country as a part of the ACE Mentor Summer Workplace Experience (SWE) program.

The ACE Mentor SWE takes the traditional ACE Mentor Program, a free program for high school students, and creates opportunities for them to gain valuable work experience over the summer. In addition to paid career exploration, ACE students who participate in the ACE Mentor SWE build meaningful relationships, grow their networks, and reinforce the lessons during school.

Firms support their local ACE Mentor affiliate and strengthen their own workforce pipelines by hosting externship opportunities. They can begin recruiting and retention before potential employees have even graduated high school. Given the shortage of young, diverse, knowledgeable talent entering the industry, this is a valuable opportunity for any firm.

“This was our first year in hosting four ACE students. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from both my co-workers and the four students we hosted. It was a success in our eyes, and we plan on hosting more students next summer,” claimed one sponsor firm.

Over the last two summers, the ACE Mentor SWE has provided an avenue for industry firms to nurture future talent. In 2021, the first year of the ACE Mentor SWE, the economy experienced the highest teen summer employment rate since 2008, according to data from the Bureau of



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Labor Statistics. With support from willing participants, ACE capitalized on the rebound of teens looking for work and firms looking for labor after the pandemic plunge. In 2022, ACE Mentor placed 521 high school students in externships across 55 cities. Additionally, 144 ACE Mentor alumni (college students) across 61 cities reported having an internship with an ACE mentoring firm. These totals represent more than \$800,000 in funding that was paid directly to ACE students.

The ACE Mentor SWE is an attractive opportunity for teens, their families, and participating firms. The immersive, hands-on experience provides a platform for employers to develop relationships with the future workforce and provides students with an opportunity to develop critical skills and knowledge for success.

In ACE Mentor's 2022 Student Survey, 2,578 students reported that 84% of students say participating in ACE improved their chances of being admitted to college or a skilled trades training program, and 98% gained life and work skills that will help in any career.

Volunteering as an ACE Mentor is the best way to start identifying talent earlier and hiring students directly into local firms. For more information or to volunteer, please visit www.acementor.org/find-a-program.

About the ACE Mentor Program:

Founded in 1994, the ACE Mentor Program consists of groups of mentors and groups of students, working as a team to complete a mock design project through the course of the school year (16-to-19 sessions). During this process students learn about all aspects of the integrated construction industry --- from project concept, to design, to construction and site safety considerations. ACE Mentor serves more than 10,000 students annually and has distributed more than \$28 million in scholarships for students entering architecture, construction, and engineering career pathways. For more information visit www.acementor.org

*Photos available upon request.
