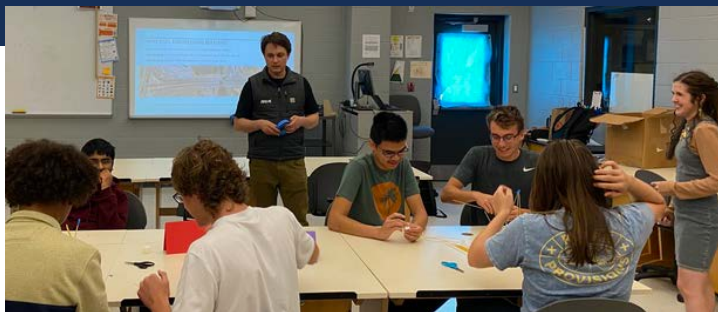


ACE WICOMICO NEWSLETTER



Note from our Chair – Christine Smith

The students in the program this year are more motivated than ever to design, engage, and learn about the wonderful world architecture, construction and engineering. I am so thankful to all the donors that are helping us create opportunities for these students as well as help us provide scholarships to help make their dreams come true. I am also very thankful for all our mentors, board members, parents and, of course, the students that make this program possible through their dedication and passion for their work and influencing the next generation.



Our Mission

To engage, excite, and enlighten high schools students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, and construction through mentoring and continued support for their advancement into the industry. To assist and guide students by providing scholarships and mentoring as they pursue career pathways into the industry.

Year in Review

We're excited to share that the ACE Wicomico Mentor Program is thriving and making a real difference in our local community! This year, we're welcoming two new mentors to our team, who are ready to bring their fresh ideas and expertise to support and inspire the next generation of leaders in architecture, construction, and engineering.

Our success is thanks to our amazing and dedicated board members, whose passion and vision have helped ACE Wicomico to grow. Their leadership ensures that we continue to offer high-quality programming and meaningful opportunities for both students and mentors.

We're also thrilled to announce that our fundraising efforts have seen significant growth! Thanks to the generous support from our community and some innovative fundraising initiatives we've been able to expand our resources, provide more scholarships, and enhance the overall experience for our students.

With all these exciting developments, ACE Wicomico is more committed than ever to empowering students and building a brighter future for the industry!





Thank You To Our Mentors

Becker Morgan Group Inc.

- Christine Smith
- Megan Kelly
- Adrian Bradshaw

Whiting-Turner Construction Contracting Company

- Cody Faulkner
- Faith Metcalf
- Farida Jacinthe

Allen + Shariff Engineering, LLC

- Zachary Cioccio

BECKER
MORGAN
GROUP

WT
WHITING-TURNER

Allen + Shariff
MEP Engineering | Project Management

Meet ACE Alum and Mentor Farida Jacinthe

I am a Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) engineer with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Maryland. My journey into the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry began as a student in the ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) program, where I discovered my passion for design, technology, and collaboration. The mentorship I received during that time provided invaluable insights that proved essential throughout my college years and shaped my career trajectory.

Returning to ACE as a mentor is my way of giving back to the program that inspired my professional path. I am excited to share my experiences and insights with the next generation of students while continuing to grow and evolve in my field.

I chose to join the ACE program because of my strong interest in architecture and my desire to gain hands-on experience while learning from industry professionals. Prior to joining, I was already participating in a CADD program, which introduced me to the fundamentals of computer-aided design software and its use in generating technical drawings and design models. Through ACE, I sought to further develop my skills, deepen my understanding of these concepts, and explore practical applications within the architecture, construction, and engineering fields.

Meet ACE Alum and Mentor Adrian Bradshaw



Adrian Bradshaw is an architectural designer at Becker Morgan Group. Adrian is a Salisbury native where he graduated from Wicomico High School. Afterwards he attended the University of Maryland, College Park where he earned a Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Science in Architecture. As a former ACE student Adrian gained experience and connections which kick-started his architectural career and has rejoined as a Mentor hoping to prepare and encourage the next generation of professionals

Summer Opportunities – Elizabeth

Elizabeth Olvera-Bonilla participated in Virginia Tech Inside Design Summer program – a hands-on summer experience led by experienced educators and practitioners, fostering discussion and discovery of key issues in the design world. While rooted in professional disciplines, the curriculum embraced design as a way of life.

Modeled on nationally ranked programs in architecture, industrial design, interior design, and landscape architecture, the experience mirrored concepts from the first-year undergraduate design studio. Elizabeth explored intuitive, problem-framing approaches to design, emphasizing conceptual thinking, new visions, and embracing ambiguity.



Fun Fact!

Our Chair, Christine Smith, graduated from Virginia Tech!

Chris Pritchett, Chair of Virginia Tech Foundation Program, was one of Christine's professors!





Summer Opportunities – Nathanael

Nathanael attended Syracuse University's of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP) Introduction to Architecture Summer Program. This intensive online experience introduced high school students to architectural ideas, principles, and methods for exploring design problems in a studio setting. During the program, Nathanael participated in small group studio sessions, lectures, and workshops focusing on representational techniques and portfolio design. He developed foundational skills in architectural design and explored creative problem-solving approaches.



Summer Opportunities – Kalan

Kalan, an ACE student from last year, has been offered a summer internship with Skanska, one of the largest construction and development companies in the U.S.

He will be working on a data center project in Virginia, building for a confidential client.

This project includes site work, underground utilities, and the fit-out of administration space and three data halls. Kalan's internship will provide him with valuable hands-on experience in large-scale construction projects, enhancing his skills and professional development.



Meet Zachary Cioccio

Zac Cioccio is a mechanical designer at Allen and Shariff Engineering and is an ACE mentor. Growing up on the eastern shore, he developed a love for the water and enjoys fishing, surfing, and boating.

He attended Salisbury University where he received an undergraduate degree in physics, and is working towards his Master of Engineering at Michigan State University.

"As a mentor it's great to have the opportunity to inspire the next generation of professionals. My hope is to instill in them the same passion for engineering that drives me."

Fun Fact!

Zac is posing with the 2024 ACE Trophy. ACE Wicomico students won this trophy when competing against other ACE groups from St. Peter and Paul, St. Michael's, and Easton High School.



What Are ACE Graduates Up To?

Emily Kirchner, an ACE alumnus, is now attending Salisbury University, where she is pursuing a dual degree in physics and engineering with a minor in business administration. She is also a member of the Clarke Science Honors College, demonstrating her commitment to academic excellence. Emily fondly recalls her ACE experience, especially the field trip to the Mardella construction site and her team's work on vision boards for nationals. Her advice to current ACE students is to share their interests with mentors and actively engage in individual and team projects, as these experiences greatly benefit college applications.

Emily is still involved in ACE Wicomico and is currently serving on our board.



Rahul Kumar Thummalapalli is passionate about architecture and is attending Temple University to pursue a career in this field, with a focus on sustainability. His goal is to work for an architecture firm specializing in sustainable design, where he can use his experience and skills to create innovative and environmentally friendly buildings. One of his favorite memories from ACE was winning the Best Design Award at the local ACE competition, which was held at Saints Peter and Paul High School. For future students in ACE, his advice would be to start working on your projects early! He notes "You never know how far the other teams have gotten on their projects, or how detailed they will be, until the ACE meeting on March 6th. So, it is crucial to add as much detail as possible to your group project before that meeting".

CIRT Competition

The Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) competition challenges high school students to apply creative problem-solving and teamwork to real-world construction and design issues. This year, Wicomico students have chosen to focus on creating a transportation hub for Salisbury. To kick off their project, the team visited the local airport to investigate transportation needs in the area. This hands-on exploration is helping the students design a solution that meets the community's specific requirements while showcasing their innovative ideas and skills.



Meet Our New Financial Advisor!

Brian T. Ford, CPA – Partner



Brian joined PKS in 2016 and works in the firm's Ocean City office. He specializes in audit and taxation for Construction and Manufacturing Organizations, Common Interest Realty Associations, Non-Profits, and income tax planning for individuals and owners of small and medium sized businesses. He is a graduate of Salisbury University with Bachelor of Science degrees in both Finance and Accounting. Brian is licensed to practice in the State of Maryland, is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a member of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants. He is active in the community serving as board member for Wicomico County ACE and a member of the Berlin Lions Clubs. Brian lives in Berlin with his wife Logan and son Gavin.



What Is The Junior Achievement Center?

Junior Achievement (JA) of the Eastern Shore is dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people for success in the workforce and beyond. Through hands-on experiences in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career readiness, JA equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the modern economy. Their innovative programs bridge the gap between education and real-world opportunities, empowering the next generation to reach their full potential.

The ACE Wicomico Mentor Group is incredibly grateful for the support of Junior Achievement and the opportunity to utilize the JA Center of the Eastern Shore. This partnership provides ACE students with a dynamic learning environment where they can collaborate, innovate, and develop their skills in architecture, construction, and engineering. Thank you, Junior Achievement, for your commitment to shaping the future of young professionals!

To learn more about how you can support JA of the Eastern Shore, please visit their website at: <https://easternshore.ja.org/index>

Connections with Salisbury University

An exciting collaboration opportunity between Salisbury University's COMM 409 (Nonprofit Communication) course and ACE has taken shape. In this course, students partner with community organizations to create strategic communication projects. During the fall semester, three SU students joined ACE to help develop social media and recruiting materials for ACE. A big thank you to Dr. Carolina Bown for organizing this connection and SU student Abby Adey for your support!

Meet Abby

My name is Abby Adey, and I am a senior at Salisbury University. I am graduating this spring with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a minor in Marketing! I love being creative, problem solving, and helping others which is why I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with ACE!



To Support ACE Wicomico

To contribute and be a part of this meaningful journey, please donate using the directions below. Together, let's turn possibilities into realities!

Send Checks to:

ACE Mentor Program of Maryland, Wicomico
102 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601

You Can Also Donate Online:

<https://www.mscf.org/donate-online>

Please ensure you indicate donations are for ACE Wicomico

ACE Student Accomplishments

Kaitlyn Tyler - broke the Guinness World Record of "Most Plants Planted by an Individual in One Hour"! Kaitlyn planted 3,515 plants in under 50 minutes!!

Zach Brennan - enrolled in a dual enrollment college physics class and is considering double majoring in physics and math at UMD College Park.

Nathanael Groth - competed at the 40th Annual Eastern Shore High School Mathematics Competition and took home third place with this team!

Elizabeth Olvera-Bonilla - competed in Skills USA and will be going on to state-level competition!

A fun fact about the ACE Mentor Program is that it was founded in 1994 by Charles H. Thornton, a structural engineer, to inspire high school students to explore careers in Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE). Since then, the program has awarded over \$25 million in scholarships to students pursuing careers in these fields!

Another cool tidbit: Many ACE alumni come back to the program as mentors after working in the industry, creating a cycle of mentorship that keeps inspiring new generations of builders and designers. 🏗️



ACE WICOMICO DONORS

Skanska Scholarship – \$5,000

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Skanska for their generous donation, which has made it possible to establish the Skanska Scholarship. This scholarship will support and recognize the outstanding achievements of multiple deserving students. Thanks to Skanska's commitment to fostering future talent in the construction industry, we are able to provide this meaningful opportunity. The winners of the Skanska Scholarship will be announced during our final presentation night, and we are thrilled to honor their contributions to our program. Thank you, Skanska, for your invaluable support and dedication to shaping the future of the industry!



Skanska's Portland International Airport Terminal Balancing Concourse E Extension

Biggs Construction Scholarship – \$5,000

A BIG thank you to Biggs Construction Company for their generous donation, which has made it possible to establish the Biggs Construction Scholarship. This scholarship will support and recognize the outstanding achievements of multiple deserving students. Thanks to Biggs Construction Company's dedication to the underground utility industry and their commitment to fostering future talent, we are able to offer this meaningful opportunity.

Silverback Concrete – \$1,000

Silverback Concrete is a family-led team of heavy-concrete specialists dedicated to constructing commercial structures with unparalleled quality. They emphasize delivering unfailing strength for building, operating with precision and grit to ensure high-quality and safe outcomes. Their commitment to excellence is evident in their accurate layouts, superior finishing, and meticulous attention to detail. The company prides itself on being a reliable partner for contractors, embodying the motto: "You stand on it. We stand by it."

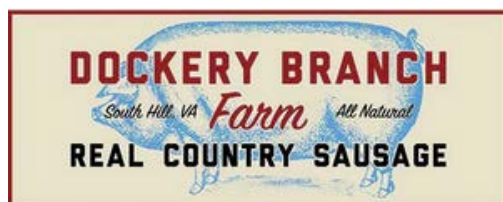
Sargent Corporation \$1,000

Sargent Corporation is a renowned employee-owned construction company specializing in diverse infrastructure projects, including renewable energy, highways, and underground work. With a strong legacy dating back nearly a century, Sargent emphasizes its commitment to both its employees and the quality of its work. Known for their innovative and reliable solutions, Sargent continues to uphold the values of integrity, dedication, and creativity, ensuring exceptional results across every project.



Dockery Branch Farms – \$2,500

Dockery Branch Farms is a family owned company located in South Hill, Virginia in a little area known as Dockery. We produce Real Country Sausage from a 100 year old recipe. They offer a variety of sausage flavors including: Brats, Sweet Italian Sausage, Hot Italian Sausage, Andouille, Polish, Garlic Parmesan, Jalapeno, Spicy El Diablo, and Old Bay! Order online now!



ACE WICOMICO DONORS

Allen & Shariff Engineering – \$1,500

Allen & Shariff is committed to delivering innovative and efficient MEP engineering, commissioning, and project management services both nationally and globally. With a strong foundation in integrity, collaboration, and problem-solving, they provide cutting-edge solutions tailored to our clients' unique needs. Allen & Shariff is dedicated to engineering a better world through strategic, forward-thinking solutions.

Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.

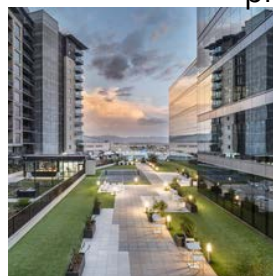
What started as a one-room office in downtown Salisbury has grown into a leading multidisciplinary firm serving the Eastern Shore and beyond. Founded by engineers John A. Davis, PE, and Gerald G. Friedel, PE, alongside architect G. Donald Bowen, AIA, Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. (DBF) has continuously expanded its reach and expertise over the decades.

From opening offices in Delaware and Maryland to strategic acquisitions—such as Andrews, Miller & Associates in 2007 and Environmental Resources, Inc. in 2023—DBF has evolved to offer a comprehensive range of services, including marine engineering, hydrology, and environmental consulting.

Whiting-Turner - \$2,500

For over a century, Whiting-Turner has been a leader in construction management, general contracting, and design-build services across a wide range of industries. With offices nationwide, Whiting-Turner serves sectors including healthcare, education, technology, retail, and transportation. Their dedication to collaboration, sustainability, and cutting-edge construction techniques has positioned them as a trusted partner for complex and large-scale projects. As an employee-owned company, Whiting-Turner fosters a culture of excellence, diversity, and professional growth, ensuring that every project meets the highest industry standards.

Whiting-Turner
project in Phoenix



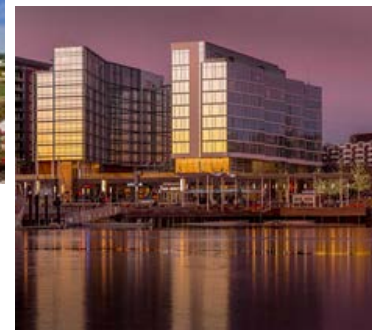
CT Darnell Project in
Georgia



Davis, Bowen & Friedel
project in Salisbury



Allen & Shariff
Engineering
Project project



CT Darnell Construction – \$2,500

Based in Alpharetta, GA, they are led by Travis Darnell, President/Co-Owner and Clint Darnell, Vice President/Co-Owner.

They have created innovative building solutions for many of the top firms in America. In fact, the Darnell family has been solving construction challenges for three generations.

From designing innovative racking systems and state of the art lumberyards, to building modern travel centers and offices, they are a company on the move.



ACE WICOMICO DONORS

Ms. Sandra Carpenter

Sandra Carpenter, LEED AP BD+C, was a Senior Associate and Project Manager at Becker Morgan Group, based in Salisbury, Maryland. With over 30 years of design experience, she has been instrumental in leading various educational and community projects. Notably, Sandra managed the design of the Somerset County Technical High School, a state-of-the-art facility that received LEED Gold certification and multiple awards for its innovative design.

Sandra has been a long time supporter of ACE and used to be the coordinator for the Wicomico group!

Will Riley

Will Riley is a superintendent at Skanska with a background in construction management from Illinois State University. Since entering the construction industry in 2008, he has gained experience in pre-construction planning, project management, and site supervision.

Skanska is a global construction and development company headquartered in Sweden, with a strong presence in the United States and other international markets. The company specializes in building, infrastructure, and commercial development projects, focusing on sustainability and innovation. Skanska has been involved in major projects such as airports, bridges, hospitals, and commercial buildings, often emphasizing green construction practices and energy-efficient designs.

Tyler Building Company

Tyler Building Company is the go-to choice for custom home building, remodels, additions, and decks on the Delmarva Peninsula. Whether you have a clear vision or need help creating the home of your dreams, our team is here to bring it to life. Known for our exceptional craftsmanship and commitment to quality, they understand the unique needs of the Eastern Shore community. From the Virginia Eastern Shore to Salisbury, Ocean City, and beyond, Tyler Building Company is your full-service builder, ready to make your vision a reality.



Thank You To Our Volunteers!

Ms. Anna Hamel - Education Major at Salisbury University

Ms. Jody Kieffer - Communication Major at Salisbury University

Ms. Claire Williams

Dr. Erin Stutelberg



ACE WICOMICO HONORARY GUESTS



Mayor Taylor

On November 20, 2023, Randolph J. Taylor was sworn in as the 29th Mayor of Salisbury, Maryland. A Salisbury native and former nationally ranked youth tennis player, Taylor attended the Bullis School in Potomac before continuing his education at the University of Maryland College Park, where he played for the Terrapins Tennis team.

His career began in politics as a legislative assistant for Jack Kemp before transitioning into a successful 25-year career in commercial banking, including a decade with M&T Bank. In 2017, he founded The Preservation Company Inc., specializing in historic home restoration. His passion for Salisbury's future led him to run for mayor in 2023.

Ron Morgan of Becker Morgan Group

W. Ronald Morgan, AIA, is the President and Founding Principal of Becker Morgan Group, an architecture and engineering firm established in 1983. Along with his business partner, Tom Becker, Ron recognized the potential of Maryland's Eastern Shore and founded the firm to focus on private sector projects, particularly in the residential and hospitality industries.

Under Ron's leadership, Becker Morgan Group has expanded its presence with offices in Dover, Delaware (1993), Wilmington, North Carolina (2007), and Newark, Delaware (2015). This growth reflects the firm's commitment to providing creative and client-focused design solutions across the Mid-Atlantic region.

D'Shawn M. Doughty

D'Shawn M. Doughty serves as the Council President for Salisbury, Maryland, bringing leadership and community-focused values to the city. With a background in finance and real estate development, Doughty currently works as the Development Manager at Green Street Housing. He has been involved in several local organizations, including Junior Achievement and the Salisbury Junior Chamber of Commerce. Committed to enhancing Salisbury's quality of life, Doughty focuses on community development and effective governance. His leadership continues to drive progress in the city.

Mr. Doughty is a graduate of ACE!

