



Most ACE teams incorporate into mentoring sessions short presentations about the different careers in the integrated design and construction industry. Mentors or guest speakers discuss their career paths.

The most effective presentations are brief (15-20 minutes max), informal, personalized, and interactive.

Possible Topics to Discuss

- ✓ The career path of the professional, starting from the time he/she first became interested in his/her chosen profession.
- ✓ Courses to take in high school to prepare for college study in the field.
- ✓ The college experience – what to expect.
- ✓ Salary expectations for fresh hires in the profession and for individuals after several years' experience.
- ✓ A typical work day for a new hire and for the professional him/herself.

Tips

- ✓ Expose students to the full range of a profession, not just to what the presenter does. For example, assuming that the presenter is a mechanical engineer who designs HVAC systems, mention that mechanical engineers also design automobiles, roller coasters, etc. Once students have the big picture, then focus on the presenter's specialty.
- ✓ Employ "props" or "tools of the trade" that relate to the presenter's work (e.g., models, concrete cores, drafting instruments, photos, a piece of ductwork, etc.).
- ✓ Show students a project the presenter is working on and use it as an indirect way to explain the presenter's career.
- ✓ Demonstrate how computers are used in the presenter's work: an animated "fly through," a structural framework flexing in the wind, CAD, BIM modeling, etc.
- ✓ Give students a short "vocabulary" list for several key terms used in presenter's discipline.
- ✓ Distribute to students free brochures from professional organizations (AIA, ASCE, IEEE, NSPE, etc.).