

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

ENR's Annual ACE Mentor Yearbook



Letter from the Chairman



Dr. Charles H. Thornton
Founder
ACE Mentor Program

The ACE Mentor Program is accomplishing what to-date has been seemingly impossible – we are becoming the voice of an industry.

Typically fragmented, complex and diverse, the building and construction business often struggles to be heard. Yet, under the umbrella of workforce development, we're finding a common message,

one that provides career guidance for teenagers, creates a continuous network of talent, and energizes an industry in anticipation of much needed demand.

We're realizing continuous growth of the program in terms of students, mentors and financial support – growth that continued this last year without a blip despite a down economy. In fact, our sponsor and partner enthusiasm is up, as demonstrated by our over \$8 million in available scholarships.

At the management level, we've introduced the Leadership Council, a unique group of representatives from 17 sectors of the industry that ranges from designers and engineers to contractors and trade organizations to manufacturers and suppliers to legal representatives and insurance/surety brokers.

If we are to meet our 2012 objective of having 100,000 students enter the ACE program annually, we'll need the support of the Leadership Council and many more.

We must also learn from our hard-working, dedicated nationwide network of affiliates. I'm particularly excited

about the ACE Affiliate in Sacramento. In three years, this program has grown from 0 to 350 students. They've done it by bringing together a vast network of regional building and construction representatives, the regional superintendent of schools and even California government leaders. Their successful format is serving as a prototype to other affiliates across the country and an inspiration to our national board as we strive to develop government, education and industry networks that will help all existing and new affiliates grow with continued ease and speed.

A short time ago, I had the opportunity to hear a commencement address that hit home. The speaker told the graduates and the audience that every individual needs just three things to succeed: passion, persistence and flexibility. I wholeheartedly agree, as these are the key attributes of our organization from students to mentors to administrators. We are indeed the voice of an industry.

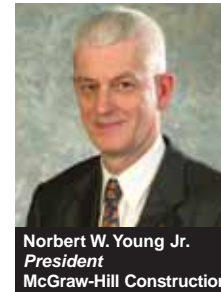
Thanks to all who helped drive this vital program to its current success and I look forward to all that we can accomplish in the next year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles H. Thornton
Founder, ACE Mentor Program



Letter from the President of McGraw-Hill Construction



Norbert W. Young Jr.
President
McGraw-Hill Construction

Dear ENR Reader:

As you know, the construction industry is facing significant challenges due to the economic downturn. We must prepare the industry for the changes to come, specifically those resulting from the 2009 Stimulus Package, which is the most important piece of legislation in the history of the A/E/C industry.

Our industry will see \$130 billion of stimulus and ARRA funding to drive more construction activity over the next three years. Due to this funding for our industry, there will be a continued need to recruit a qualified workforce at all levels. The industry must demonstrate to multiple levels of students – from middle school to graduate school – just how exciting the career opportunities are in construction, engineering and architecture.

Since the ACE Mentor Program was launched in New York City in 1991, it has become the construction industry's premier workforce advocacy and school outreach initiative. Since their inception, it has given more than 51,000 students insight into the industry. It is in more than 136 cities and initiated 16 startup affiliates in 2009.

The program is run by a nonprofit coalition of professionals working together to excite and motivate young people to pursue careers in construction, and it is growing.

ACE affiliates now operate in 102 cities, involving 300 after-school activity teams and 7,500 students. More than

3,700 mentors are inspiring students and honing their skills in 31 states across the country.

Within one year, we have seen an increase of support by 32% more cities, involving twice as many after-school activities and more than 35% additional students, including high schools. And we are starting new programs in 21 locations this fall.

As an advocate for best practices and innovation, McGraw-Hill Construction supports ACE as an active board member. Because we are an information and media company, we are in a unique position to contribute our media resources to help raise awareness of ACE among construction industry leaders.

In this spirit, McGraw-Hill Construction is once again proud to publish the ACE Yearbook to raise awareness of ACE and to honor participating mentors and students.

Whether you are currently involved as one of our partners in ACE mentoring, or planning to volunteer, I hope the ACE Yearbook provides new insights and inspiration for you to reach out to young people in your community and help them discover the rewards of a career in construction.

Sincerely,

Norbert W. Young, Jr., FAIA
President, McGraw-Hill Construction



ACE Mentor Program 2009 Year-End Review

ACE Accelerates with Renewed
Vision, Focus and Energy

*"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."
-Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Economic uncertainty and financial distress have not deterred the momentum of the ACE Mentor Program. In fact, ACE shattered all growth records during 2008-2009 school year, further solidifying its position as the fastest growing youth involvement program in the country. It expanded from 106 to 136 cities during this past year and hosted approximately 10,000 high school students, up from 6,000 the year prior. A large percentage of these young people are now preparing to attend colleges, universities and trade schools.

National sponsors continue to enthusiastically grow their commitment to ACE, both financially and with more mentors. One of the most visible is Turner Construction Co., the oldest non-association ACE Mentor Program sponsor with over 370 mentors in the program.

Peter J. Davoren, vice chairman of the ACE National Board and president and chief executive officer of Turner Construction Co., says, "We've helped introduce hundreds of young people to our industry, helped support them in college through internships and scholarships, and now many of them are key members of our company."

Patrick MacLeamy, chief executive officer of The HOK Group, an architectural and engineering firm and member of the ACE Board of Directors, likens ACE to professional baseball's farm system.

He says, "Like baseball's minor leagues, the ACE program develops young talent that will one day help our organization maintain its leadership role in the industry. Every year that we're involved with ACE, we're building our bench strength—and we're not

about to stop now. It just makes good business sense with the added benefit of nurturing young people and community involvement."

PASSIONATE PROPONENTS

With a goal to support 100,000 students in the ACE program annually and over 200 ACE Affiliates by 2012, the ACE Mentor Program administrators dedicate significant time and energy to developing the infrastructure to facilitate speedy expansion and continued improvement.

According to a study conducted by FMI, a management consulting and investment banking company for the construction industry, ACE needs to grow from about 7,000 mentors to almost 40,000, and increase financial support by an additional \$2 million annually – a formidable challenge even during strong economic times. Yet, ACE continues to capture the attention and commitment from the industry, educational institutions and even government leaders.

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This past year, ACE formed the ACE Leadership Council, an enthusiastic group of ACE Mentor representatives from all 17 sectors of the building and construction industry. These 17 sectors span all facets of the business from lawyers and insurance providers to software developers and national suppliers.

Each of the representatives from these organizations has made financial and volunteer mentor commitments. The first ACE Leadership Council member company was Marsh USA, a consulting and risk management services company. Marsh reached out to ACE Mentor in 2008.

Michael Feigin is a managing director and the global construction practice leader for Marsh USA, Inc. Originally involved with ACE when he was with Bovis Lend Lease, Feigin also sits on the governance committee of the ACE Board of Directors.

He says, "It is important for those who support the construction industry to be involved in issues critical to the industry's growth and survival. We believe ACE is the perfect mentoring program for even non-core architectural, engineering and construction firms, like Marsh. There are a lot of professions involved in the business—from lawyers and risk managers to insurance and surety brokers. That translates to even more career opportunities for young

students to consider."

Coincidentally, Marsh already employs an ACE graduate in its construction practice. Helen Young participated in ACE for two years in high school and then went on to Columbia University to study electrical engineering. Beyond her role as a Marsh risk management consultant, Helen Young runs the mentoring program at Marsh.

"We are using the opportunity to introduce students to other critical aspects of the construction business such as cost and time impacts, construction claims and dispute resolution," says Young.

During this last year, Young and the other mentors in the ACE New York Affiliate helped guide the students through various construction project processes, such as the RFI process, where they learned about contracts and the associated relationships using a mock set of drawings.

MILITARY MIGHT AND MORE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), one of the largest design and construction organizations in the world, is working with ACE organizers to introduce USACE staff to the ACE program in key USACE offices from Anchorage, AK to Jacksonville, FL.

James Dalton, PE, chief of engineering and construction for USACE and a member of the ACE

Leadership Council, says, "It's in our best interest to get young people excited about what we do on projects in the U.S. and around the world. ACE is a huge opportunity to influence and excite a younger generation about our career opportunities."

Current forecasts predict that by 2012-2013, the construction industry will have one million job openings and that the next 25 years facilitate unprecedented infrastructure expansion.

John Heisse, ACE board member and spokesperson for the American Bar Association, an ACE sponsor, cautions industry professional to look beyond current economic conditions. "Keep in mind that the construction industry is slow because of financial conditions, not because of the lack of demand," he says. "Don't let the current downturn make you think the need isn't there. Skilled professionals and tradespersons are very critical resources that we're lacking, and ACE can help fill that need."

Patrick Natale, executive director for the American Society of Civil Engineers, a long-time ACE supporter, concludes, "Building a strong network of up-and-coming talent will put our industry and our country in a position to compete globally and improve the quality of life in the U.S. Together, we can nurture and grow the future workforce."

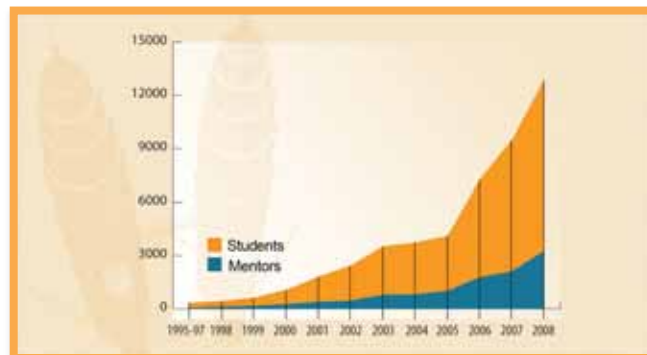
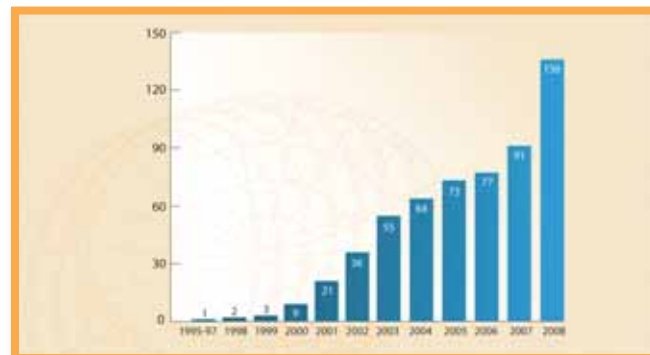
Sponsor Spotlight

United Technologies *Elevates* ACE

United Technologies Corporation (UTC), the newest sponsor of the ACE Mentor program, is one of the largest suppliers to the global building and aerospace industries. Founded by engineers who created the industries that make modern life possible, UTC continues this legacy of innovation today. UTC's commercial products include elevators that give energy back to a building's electrical grid and combined cooling, heating and power solutions. These and other innovations provide a unique perspective to young people interested in exploring careers in architecture, construction or engineering.

"We offer young people an inside look at the critical role manufacturers, such as UTC, play in building

and construction industry" says Sandy Diehl, UTC's vice president of Integrated Building Solutions. "Beyond financial contributions to ACE Affiliates and membership on the ACE National Board, our goal is to create a network of employee mentors in cities across the nation. ACE is an inspiring, powerful youth-oriented program that benefits the entire industry and we are proud to be a part of it."



ACE Student Profile

Construction *Connection*



Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, Thai Nguyen's early life was shrouded in uncertainty and fear. His family had been forced to flee their home in South Vietnam as the conflict with North Vietnam escalated. They lived the next two years in the crowded camp with few of life's basic necessities, and little hope of returning to their homeland.

In 1987, as part of a U.S. program to help South Vietnamese soldiers and families emigrate to the U.S., the Nguyen family was offered U.S. visas and the opportunity to become U.S. citizens—an offer Thai's parents quickly embraced in the hopes of providing a better future for their children.

After attending short U.S. transition program, the family moved Los Angeles, CA. Early on, Thai's mother and father instilled a strong work ethic and commitment to education that they believed would help Thai and his siblings assimilate into western society. For Thai, the sheer number of opportunities proved somewhat confusing.

Thai recalls, "I was a good student with diverse interests. However, by the time I reached high school, I couldn't decide whether I wanted to be an optometrist, a social worker, an engineer or maybe an astronaut. By chance, I joined ACE in my senior year and everything fell into place."

Thai became part of the inaugural ACE Mentor class at John Marshall High School in Los Angeles, CA, in 2002.

"One of my first ACE sessions included a field trip to a local engineering firm," says Thai. "I remember initially thinking that I have no idea what they're talking about, but I really liked the results that were

**"In high school, I couldn't decide whether I wanted to be an optometrist, a social worker, an engineer or maybe an astronaut. By chance, I joined ACE in my senior year and everything fell into place."
– Thai Nguyen, former ACE Mentor student**

reflected in the pictures of bridges and buildings. The mentors were great and found ways to explain the business in a way that we could understand."

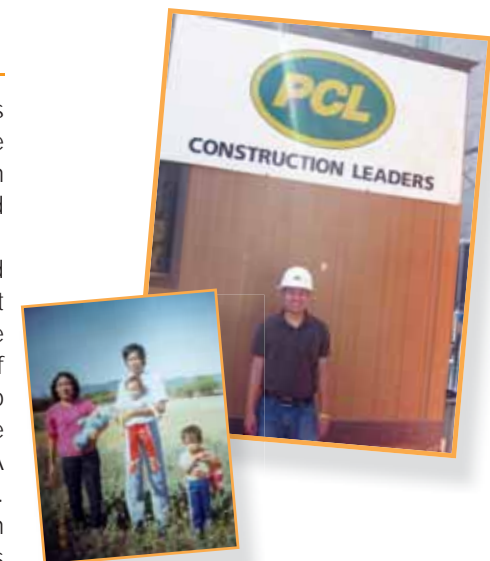
Over the next year, Thai gained a first hand knowledge of what it takes to design and construct a wide range of structures. By the end of his senior year, he had decided to attend California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA to study construction management. During his schooling, he interned with Clark Construction for three summers

and the fourth with PCL Construction. After graduating in June 2008 with a degree in Construction Management, Thai accepted a position as a field engineer with PCL. When asked how the job is going, he enthusiastically replies, "I love it."

David Yount, district manager for PCL agrees, adding, "When I first met Thai, I knew there was something special about him. Not only was he passionate about the construction industry, but he was passionate about helping others. Since Thai joined our company after graduation, he has accepted all challenges thrown at him at the jobsite and still demonstrates the passion that we witnessed when I first met him."

Thai says, "You can never be certain where life will take you, but I probably wouldn't be in the construction industry, and as happy at my chosen profession, if it weren't for the ACE Mentor program."

Thai returned to John Marshall High School in 2008-2009 school year as a mentor for ACE.



University & College Collaborative

College Collaborative *Program Progress*

The ACE Mentor University and College Scholarship Collaboration Program is a unique network of higher learning institutions that offer curriculums in construction industry-related careers, such as: architecture, construction, engineering, landscape architecture, interior design, the trades and other related fields.

Currently 20 colleges and universities have joined the program—and more are expected to sign on in the next year.

Dr. Tim J. Ward, PE, dean of

scholarship for an ACE graduate who meets the institutions' admissions criteria. The amount of the scholarship and the eligibility criteria are set by the institution, though some include full tuition for three or more years.

Mary Fenelon, college collaborator coordinator for ACE Mentor and principal of the Building Associations Collaborative, says, "For universities and colleges, ACE is the perfect program to find and attract a diverse group of young people who are excited and ready to study industry-

"By providing these scholarships, we will perpetuate Williamson's mission of preparing economically challenged young men to be useful and respected members of society through both trade and values education and the ACE mission of enlightening and increasing the awareness of high school students to career opportunities in construction and providing scholarship opportunities for students in an inclusive manner reflective of the diverse school population."

**– Jay Merillat, Dean of Enrollments,
Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades**

the Manhattan College School of Engineering, says, "As one of the first universities to support the ACE Mentor program over a decade ago, we're excited to expand our partnership as a member of the Scholarship Collaboration Program. Through this program, we continue to provide the stepping stones necessary to move young people into exciting new careers."

As a member, these institutions agree to set aside at least one

related programs. It's also a great opportunity for ACE to grow its ever-increasing list of valuable mentors from educators to university alumni."

Students can apply for scholarships offered through the University and College Scholarships Collaboration Program through the regular admission channels of the institution. These scholarships are separate and in addition to those currently offered through ACE National and the various affiliates.

University & College Scholarship Collaboration Participants

- Arizona State University
- Boston Architecture College
- Brigham Young University
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- Clarkson University
- Community College of Baltimore County
- Howard University
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Manhattan College
- Metropolitan Community College – Business & Technology
- New England Institute of Technology
- New School of Architecture & Design
- Norwich University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Southern Polytechnic State University
- Spelman Collage
- Syracuse University
- Texas A&M University
- The Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades
- University of Hartford
- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- Weber State University

ACE Affiliate Spotlight

California *Connections*

The ACE Affiliate of Greater Sacramento was selected as Emerging Affiliate of the Year by the ACE Board of Directors for its success and growth in the Sacramento, CA region.

In just three years, ACE Sacramento has expanded from one school, 25 students and seven mentors to 354 students from 13 area high schools, 96 mentors and over 75 local participating industry firms.

A major part of the Affiliate's success is attributed to its partnership with the Sacramento Builders' Exchange (SBE). SBE is a local trade association that provides education programs, safety programs, bidding information, legislative updates, networking opportunities, and other related information and events for the construction industry. More than 3,000 of the industrial and commercial companies in Sacramento are members of SBE.

Additionally, the Greater Sacramento Affiliate and SBE teamed with the superintendent of schools. By including the school sites and, more specifically, the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOPE), ACE Sacramento was able to grow quickly and seamlessly. With the resources

of SCOPE and SBE joining forces, ACE Sacramento remains a constant topic in workforce circles. In fact, the affiliate has been approached on several occasions with grant opportunities—from the regional community college district to the local workforce investment board, everyone in Sacramento is talking about ACE.

Director of ACE Regional Programs (West), Stephanie Davi Ercolini says: "By engaging all the local players early, the Sacramento affiliate has truly become a model for growth and sustainability. One of the best parts of the ACE program is its tendency to bring a variety of groups and trades together with a common goal. ACE is for everyone. Sacramento's outreach through the Builders' Exchange, the County Office of Education and the more than 75 local businesses who support the program, is a great example of all the wheels turning at once."

As Emerging Affiliate of the Year, ACE Sacramento will receive \$10,000 to further grow their program. Last year, ACE Greater Sacramento awarded over \$15,000 in student scholarships.

"The ACE program is a terrific way to get members of our firm involved in the local community, particularly the young professionals. Mentors interact with peers, competitors and clients. The construction business is all about building relationships. The reward is when our mentors realize the value of this interaction with peers, clients, and especially students. The subsequent business value to PSI is simply a byproduct."

– Murray Savage, chief executive officer of Professional Services Industry (PSI)



ACE Mentor Program Affiliates

ALABAMA**BIRMINGHAM**

Robins and Morton
Contact: Nick Dill
ndill@robinsmorton.com

ALASKA**ELMENDORF**

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ARIZONA**PHOENIX**

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Turner Construction Company
vchurchwell@tcco.com

CALIFORNIA**LOS ANGELES & ORANGE COUNTY**

LOS ANGELES
PASADENA
SANTA ANA
SANTA MONICA
LENNOX
LONG BEACH
VAN NUYS
THERMAL

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY

PALM SPRINGS
PALM DESERT
INDIO
CATHEDRAL CITY
ANZA

Contact: Linda Kee Dyer
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SACRAMENTO

Sacramento Builders Exchange
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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

SAN FRANCISCO
SAN JOSE
OAKLAND
PALO ALTO
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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FLORIDA**NORTHEAST FLORIDA**

JACKSONVILLE

The Haskell Company
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Denise.ramsey@thehaskellco.com

SOUTH FLORIDA

MIAMI DADE COUNTY
BROWARD COUNTY
PALM BEACH COUNTY
MARTIN COUNTY

Current Builders
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CENTRAL FLORIDA

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GEORGIA**ATLANTA**

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NEW MEXICO**LAS CRUCES**

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▲ Certificate of Operation

NEW YORK**ALBANY**

General Building Contractors of New York
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brendanm@gbcnys.agc.org

GREATER NEW YORK CITY AREA

NEW YORK CITY
GARDEN CITY
NEW HYDE PARK
YONKERS

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WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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RHODE ISLAND**PROVIDENCE**

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To become involved in an established ACE Mentor Program, please contact the local representative listed with the location.

Please email or call ACE National to assist in the start-up of an ACE program in your area at pmullender@acemmentor.org or 203.323.0020.



ACE in the Pennsylvania Suburbs

The ACE Affiliate of the Year honors went to the ACE Mentor Program of Eastern Pennsylvania for its success in Philadelphia and recent expansion into the city's suburbs. Currently, the Affiliate supports over 170 students from 20 high schools.

With a goal of expanding the program through a five county area, the Affiliate has teamed with Montgomery County Workforce Development, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), and American Infrastructure, a site and heavy civil construction and material supplier.

Bob Capps, director of Field Recruiting, Retention and Career Development at American Infrastructure, says, "Our suburban expansion effort began with one ACE team of 28 kids this last year. The students, mostly seniors, designed a habitat for humanity home complete with exterior finishes, HVAC and green components. The end result was impressive. All 14 mentors found the process extraordinarily satisfying and renewed our commitment to add at least one more team and more mentors this next year."

As the ACE Affiliate of the Year, the Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate will receive \$10,000 to further grow their program. Last year, over \$30,000 in student scholarships were awarded as a result of ACE Eastern PA efforts.

ACE Mentor Program

Top 10 Reasons

Why YOU Should Become a Mentor

10 Help rebuild a valuable resource
Today's young people are the ones that we must entrust with the future of our infrastructure. It's up to us to find the best and brightest.

9 You can get a new job... you'll be the first to know if there is a job opening at a nearby ACE-sponsor firm

In these slower economic times, mentoring is a great opportunity to network with leading company executives that are always looking for talent.

8 You might learn something new by engaging with active and energetic minds

Young people have the unique ability to develop ideas with few boundaries.

7 You can teach someone something you are good at

AEC professionals are some of the most talented and creative individuals in the world. Teaching helps refine and validate your expertise.

6 It feels good to make a difference in someone's life

Mentors consistently say that seeing the eyes of a teenager brighten with comprehension and excitement over an idea or skill they have shared is one of the greatest feelings of satisfaction and pride.

5 President Obama called on Americans to volunteer time to improve their communities

For a couple hours a month, you can help young people in your community find rewarding career opportunities.

4 You can meet new business partners since ACE mentors range from presidents and senior executives to project engineers and leads

Mentors span the corporate ladder from presidents and senior executives to project engineers and leads.

3 You can improve your communication skills and better understand your individual talents and skills

Not only is ACE a perfect workforce development program for teenagers, it's also an ideal leadership development program for mentors.

2 You can lock in the best talent before your competitors even know the talent is there

Mentoring in the ACE program gives professionals a unique opportunity to identify talent at a very early stage.

1 You can kiss up to the boss who is a big ACE Mentor supporter.

ACE national board of directors and leadership council is run by the CEOs and presidents of the industry's leading companies. If your company isn't on this list yet, chances are they will be soon!



ACE 2008-2009 National Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the ACE Mentor Program national office designates scholarships given in a sponsor's name to select ACE students who meet educational criteria and plan to attend a university, college or trade program with emphasis in architecture, engineering or construction. The following students are recipients of the 2008-2009 national scholarships:

The Hospital Corporation of America and Partnering Firms Scholars \$5,000 each

Antonio Minifield – Birmingham, AL
Tomas Garcia – Denver, CO
Calleigh Freese – Kansas City, MO
Mohammad Fathi – Nashville, TN
Jerry Igiozee – Nashville, TN
Carmen van Leer – Nashville, TN
Edgar Montoya – Dallas, TX
Bechtel Scholars - \$5,000 each
Taylor Masters - Sacramento, CA
Jyotsana Ghandi – Denver, CO
Curtis Donlan - Indianapolis, IN

Hill International Scholars \$5,000 each

Robert Carpenter – Vineland, NJ
Ju Hyung Kim - New York City, NY
Sam Capizzi – Philadelphia, PA

EMCOR Scholars \$5,000 each

Dillon McConnon – Pueblo, CO
Shiloh Bushon – San Antonio, TX

Willard Hackerman Scholar \$5,000

Jennifer Doty – Baltimore, MD

AECOM Scholar \$4,000

Solomon Ajetunmobi – Baltimore, MD

AIA Scholar \$4,000

Pedro Gonzalez - Houston, TX

Gilbane Scholar \$4,000

Andrew Bartolini – Providence RI

Mechanical Contractors Association of America Scholar \$4,000

Ananya Hiremath – Frederick, MD

Parsons Brinckerhoff Scholar \$4,000

Dmitrij Peters – Seattle WA

PSI Scholar \$4,000

Iris Wu – Portland OR

Thornton Tomasetti Scholar \$4,000

Patrick Klein – York, PA

Turner Construction Scholar \$4,000

Andrew Kovad – San Francisco, CA

United Technologies Commercial Services Scholar \$4,000

Maria Carriero – Hartford, CT

American Society of Landscape Architects Scholar \$2,500

Rawlin Strothers – Los Angeles, CA

Limbach Facility Services Scholar \$2,500

Allison Kahn – Pittsburgh, PA

McGraw-Hill Construction Scholars \$2,500 each

Tai Van – Plantation, FL
Brandon Gonzalez – Jacksonville, FL
Stephen Aldridge – Stuart, FL
Victor Cueto, Chicago, IL
Chasen Baker – Hershey, PA
Jacob Startt – Easton, MD

US Green Building Scholar \$2,500

Tanya Haldaman – Lehigh Valley, PA

**"I joined ACE not knowing whether engineering or architecture was the career for me. Over the past two years, ACE helped me realize that engineering is what I love, and that it would be the perfect choice for my college major."
– Robert Carpenter, student in ACE Mentor Program of New Jersey**

**"Mentoring has so many side benefits beyond the satisfaction of helping young kids. Our mentors comment that ACE energizes, excites and inspire them both professionally and personally. The whole experience is extraordinarily rewarding for all. We continue to increase our support for ACE, and have set a goal to be involved in every ACE Affiliate where we have an office or major project in the next year."
– Thomas Gilbane, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Gilbane, Inc.**

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(continued on page A22)

(continued from page A20)

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(continued on page A24)

(continued from page A22)

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Letter from the President



Pamela Mullender
 President
 ACE Mentor Program

THE ROAD AHEAD

From the record number of scholarship donations and recipients to our expansion to 34 new cities, this has been a phenomenal year.

I'm particularly pleased with the establishment of the Leadership Council, a diverse group of supporters that represent every facet of the building and construction business. Each one of these participating companies brings a unique and vital element to our program. With their help, we are well on the road to achieving our goal of 100,000 students a year in the program by 2012.

From an operational perspective, we've also made great strides. This last year, the ACE Mentor executive board asked FMI to conduct a comprehensive study of the current ACE organizational model and offer recommendations to improve our structural, staffing, policy and

procedural goals. Their perspective has helped solidify the purpose and progress of several of our in-place initiatives in the way of student tracking, mentor networking and fund raising.

We've kicked off our wonderful web-enabled student database that will help us continue to offer advice and opportunities to our students through college and onto careers in our exciting industry. This next year, we'll expand to dozens more cities, continue to support existing affiliates and bring on energetic sponsors.

It's a great pleasure to be involved with the ACE Mentor program. We're fast becoming the number one workforce development program in the country because of the passion and dedication of thousands of individuals, companies and, in fact, an entire industry. The road ahead holds a number of challenges, but we have the people and the passion to reach our goals.

Pamela Mullender
 President/CEO, ACE Mentor Program

Portal of the Future

How many ACE students actually move on to study and make a career in the building and construction industry? In the past, that's a difficult and, in some cases, impossible question to answer. Not anymore.

This past year, EMCOR, an ACE Mentor program sponsor, developed a web-enabled database that includes the names of all 10,000 students currently in the ACE Mentor program. All students entering the ACE program join the program by registering in the database. Online student scholarship applications are also linked to the database and scholarship winners can receive their disbursement by filing their paperwork with the college online.

Finally, each student can go to the secure website to find programs that will help them as they advance their education and training along with job offerings long after they've graduated from high school. At the local and regional level, some ACE Affiliates have begun to form alumni associations and local ACE affiliate events to further build closer connections to ACE graduates.

ACE graduates: Sign up on the ACE portal so we can continue to offer you career support and opportunities.



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