OUR HISTORY

Building Futures Since 1994

The ACE Mentor Program helps mentor high school students and inspires them to pursue careers in architecture, construction, and engineering.

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM IS FOUNDED

In 1994, the ACE Mentor Program was founded in New York when 17 firms came together to form a free mentoring "teens and 'adults'" opportunity for students from local high schools.

Led by Clyde Theriault of The Related Companies, volunteers from participating firms served as mentors, working directly with students to introduce them to the wide range of careers, professionalism, and projects within the building design and construction industry.

17 FIRMS

3 TEAMS

~90 STUDENTS

EXPANDING OUR REACH

The program's early success inspired further growth. Charlie Thornton championed expansion into other Northeast States and, in succession, helping establish ACE programs in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Chicago.

By 2000, the four original affiliates were joined by new programs in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

1994

THE BEGINNING

The origins of the ACE Mentor Program can be traced to a request from Manhattan College, which reached out to several industry associations in recruiting more students to its engineering program.

Engineers joined educators from across the design and construction industry—including architects, contractors, and other professionals—to guide and mentor. Their enthusiasm resulted in many career paths within the architectural, construction, and engineering industries. Their vision also became the foundation for what would become the ACE Mentor Program.

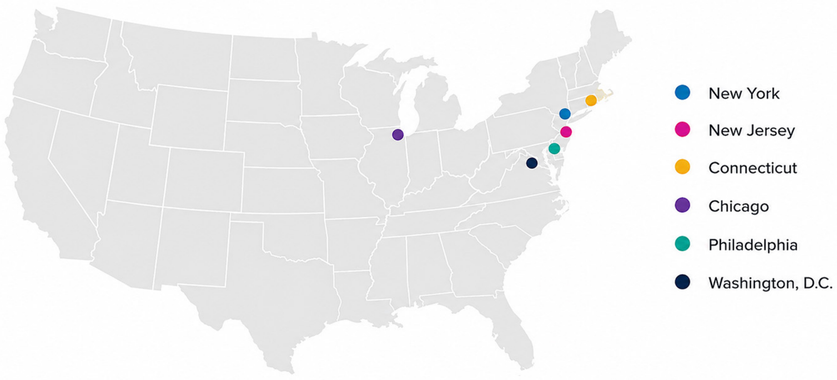
1995

FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

During that first year, ACE New York established a Board of Directors and began awarding its first scholarship.

In the spring of 1995, ACE New York held its first fundraising event to establish a scholarship program for ACE graduates.

2000



2002

ACE GOES NATIONAL

In 2002, ACE was incorporated as a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) in the District of Columbia.

A national Board of Directors and a national office were established to provide leadership, set quality standards for affiliates, and develop core policies and procedures.

TODAY

200+

CITIES NATIONWIDE

Over the years, the ACE Mentor Program continues to grow—from New York to Los Angeles, Seattle to Miami, Chicago to Dallas and even Alaska—transforming lives and communities across the country.

MENTORSHIP
Thanks to the dedication of mentors, staff, and volunteers.

OUR STUDENTS
Thousands of students, many from under-resourced backgrounds.

OPPORTUNITIES
Through mentorship, scholarships, and real-world industry experience.

OUR IMPACT
ACE continues to inspire and prepare the next generation of design and construction professionals.

OUR FUTURE
Building stronger communities and a better future for the built environment.