



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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ACE Affiliate Cheat Sheet: Leveraging National Partnerships

Partnership with SMPS (Society for Marketing Professional Services)

What this means for affiliates:

SMPS is a network of marketing and business development professionals in the A/E/C industry. They can help affiliates with connections, communications, and professional expertise.

Ways you can take advantage:

- **Local Collaboration:** Reach out to your local SMPS chapter to co-host events, panels, or networking sessions.
- **Mentors & Board Members:** Invite SMPS members to serve as ACE mentors or join your board.
- **Career Exposure for Students:** Tap into SMPS members' marketing/business skills for career days, workshops, and presentations.
- **Internships:** Partner with SMPS firms to connect alumni with internship opportunities.
- **Visibility:** Promote joint events with SMPS through social media and newsletters. Both organizations will cross-promote.

Partnership with NOMA (National Organization of Minority Architects)

What this means for affiliates:

NOMA is a national organization advancing opportunities for underrepresented groups in architecture. They run programs like Project Pipeline Architecture Camp that align with ACE's mission.

Ways you can take advantage:

- **Joint Programming:** Connect with your local NOMA chapter to co-host Project Pipeline Camps or share volunteers and resources.
- **Student Recruitment:** Promote NOMA's Project Pipeline Camps to ACE students and alumni. Encourage NOMA students to enroll in ACE.



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- **Mentors & Board Members:** Invite NOMA members to mentor in ACE or serve on your affiliate board.
- **College & Alumni Connections:** Encourage ACE graduates to join NOMA college student chapters.
- **Internships & Career Pathways:** Work with NOMA to help alumni secure internships at NOMA-affiliated firms.

Partnership with ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) & the Engineering Workforce Consortium

What this means for affiliates:

ACEC represents engineering firms nationwide, and the Engineering Workforce Consortium unites multiple engineering associations focused on addressing the workforce shortage. Together, they bring resources, policy advocacy, and career pathways for students interested in engineering.

Ways you can take advantage:

- **Local Firm Connections:** Engage ACEC member firms in your region as mentors, speakers, or sponsors.
- **Internships & Jobs:** Leverage ACEC's strong ties to engineering companies to place ACE alumni in extern/internships and entry-level roles.
- **Events & Exposure:** Invite ACEC representatives to career days, scholarship events, or student showcases.
- **Cross-Membership:** Encourage ACE alumni studying engineering to connect with ACEC's student initiatives.

How to Activate These Partnerships Locally

1. **Identify the Local Chapter and contact:** Find your nearest SMPS and NOMA chapters (national office can provide contacts if needed).
2. **Make the First Connection:** Send a simple outreach email introducing your ACE affiliate and referencing the national partnership. Please cc: your Regional Director.



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3. **Plan a Small Win:** Start with something manageable — invite a speaker, share event promotions, or collaborate on a student workshop.
4. **Track Impact:** Report back to national on successful collaborations so we can highlight them in newsletters and conferences.
5. **Stay in Touch:** Build relationships with chapter leaders for ongoing collaboration.

Pro Tip: These partnerships give you built-in credibility. When you approach SMPS or NOMA locally, you're not coming in cold, you are leveraging an existing national agreement. Use that as an entry point!

How to Build Two-Way Partnerships

1. **Lead With Collaboration:** Show chapters how your ACE affiliate supports their goals (mentorship, workforce development, externs, etc.).
2. **Invite Them In:** Give local partners visible roles in events, student programming, and affiliate boards.
3. **Spotlight Their Impact:** Always credit SMPS, NOMA, and ACEC when their members or firms engage with ACE.
4. **Keep the Door Open:** Share updates, invite them to planning meetings, and report back on student outcomes.