

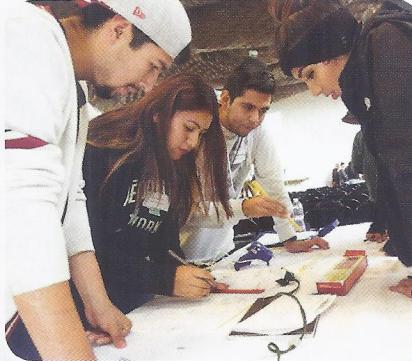


ENR's Annual ACE Mentor Program Yearbook 2016

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– **Kevin Brown**, E.I.T., *Construction Manager, Urban Engineers*

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A Letter from the ACE Mentor Chair

The ACE Mentor Program of America (ACE)

has never been in better shape in terms of commitment, fundraising, student and mentor participation, and our nationwide footprint. We've had a tremendous year of growth and accomplishments that are highlighted throughout this yearbook, including heartwarming student stories, a small sampling of our truly special alumni mentors, and a look inside the inspired activities of our affiliates from Seattle to Miami.

Special thanks to our dedicated regional directors who play a vital role in helping affiliates succeed. These four—Diana Eidenshink (Mid-Atlantic/Northeast), Andrew Frankel (West), Jack Tipton (Southeast) and Monica Worheide (Central)—offer affiliates a wealth of knowledge about everything ACE, from community connections inside and outside our industry to sharing mentoring ideas and best practices.

Supporting the regional directors and overall national efforts is a small team in the national office led by ACE CEO Jack Kalavritinos as well as Stefanie Ryan, our new director of finance and support operations, Yolanda Hendricks, our new office manager and executive assistant, and Katie Bassett, our office manager. We continue to rely on individuals like Ed Worthy, who turn anecdotal success into real numbers that document our achievements. Through his surveys, we know that ACE gave out more than \$1.5 million in scholarships this past year, two-thirds of ACE graduates enter college declaring a major in an AEC profession, and 70% of our students are minorities.

Of course, the biggest thanks go to the thousands of volunteers from all of our affiliates who give untold hours and significant financial contributions. Many of these individuals come from industry associations, schools, universities and colleges, labor unions, as well as numerous public and private entities outside the traditional architectural, engineering and construction world.

The Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) is one excellent example of a long-time

industry partner. CIRT recently organized and hosted the 10th annual CIRT-ACE National Design Competition. This year's competition was amazing in every way—the kids, the quality of their work and their presentations. It brings me great satisfaction to see the diversity of these young people, many of them from inner cities, and most of whom would never have had this opportunity without ACE. If you've never attended a competition, I urge you to take the opportunity to look it up on our rapidly growing social media forums.

I'd like to thank two retiring long-time members of the ACE National Board of Directors, Murray Savage, former CEO of Professional Services Industries, and Rich Allen, former COO of Stantec. These gentlemen have done a wonderful job spreading the word about ACE and building the foundation that is now in place. Thank you both for your commitment and contributions.

Looking ahead, we can't take our foot off the throttle. The need for talent in our industry has never been greater, and ACE is uniquely positioned to reach the next generation of young people. That's why the ACE National Executive Committee recently released a five-year strategic plan that sets forth a goal to expand our program by another 1,000 students every year. Together, we can do it!

Finally, I've been fortunate to serve as chairman for ACE and carry on Charlie Thornton's unbelievable legacy. As I finish my term and hand over the reins to Turner Construction's Peter Davoren, I look forward to continuing my work with ACE in other ways.

It's a great time for ACE and for the industry as we continue to engage, excite and enlighten the next generation workforce. Thank you, and enjoy this 2016 ACE Yearbook.



Thomas F. Gilbane, Jr.

*Chairman, ACE National Board
Chairman, Gilbane Building Company
Chairman and CEO, Gilbane Inc.*

ACE Strategic Plan for Five-Year Growth Spreads Nationwide

The ACE Mentor Program is one of the industry's most respected, successful and flourishing workforce development programs.

To guide its growth and strengthen the program's infrastructure and programming, the ACE National Executive Committee adopted a long-term strategic plan. The ACE Mentor Program National 2016–2021 Strategic Plan represents a key chapter in the history of the program, first introduced more than 20 years ago by Charlie Thornton.

This past year, more than 8,000 students, thousands of mentors, and numerous sponsors, activists and advocates contributed to another extraordinary year. There are now 65 affiliates in 33 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. With the strategic plan in place, the organization is poised for even greater expansion.

Charles A. Bacon III, chairman and CEO of Limbach Facility Services, member of the ACE National Executive Committee and one of the authors of the new strategic plan, says, "Our first



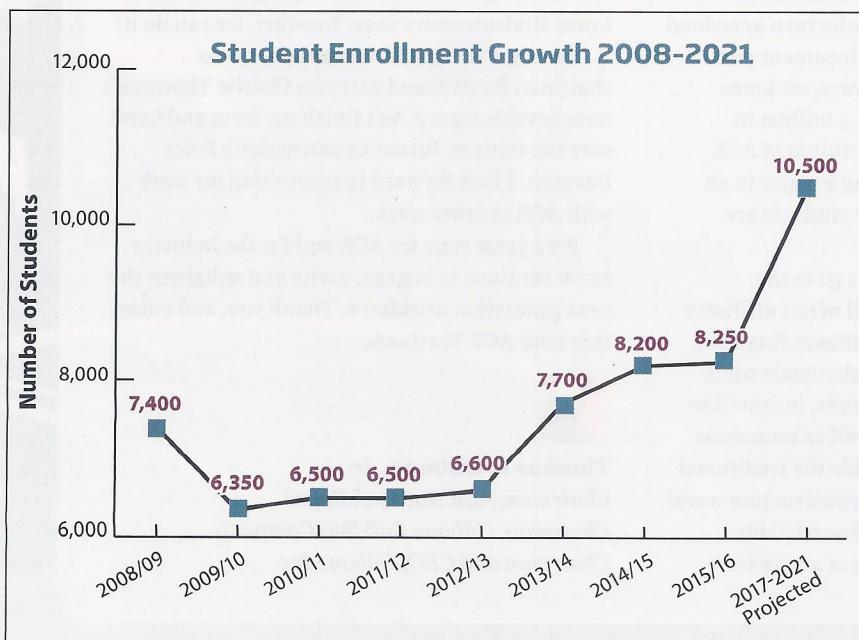
The ACE Mentor Program National 2016–2021 Strategic Plan calls for the addition of 1,000 new students per year nationwide.

strategic plan six years ago focused on finding ways to strengthen local ACE affiliates by redeploying staff away from the central office, establishing best practices and a forum for shared knowledge. We needed to get necessary resources, namely a regional director network, in place to help—and it is working better than we imagined. We

have the infrastructure in place to drive even more impressive growth."

"By establishing measurable, achievable goals when it comes to growth and increasing the program's visibility, ACE's strategic plan addresses the need for additional talent in our industry head on."

—Peter J. Davoren,
Vice Chairman, ACE



Specifically, the 2016–2021 strategic plan establishes two cross-cutting objectives to facilitate the continued success of the program:

- Achieve expansive, sustainable growth by adding 1,000 new students per year nationwide, and engage at least 10,000 students in the program by 2021–22.
- Increase the effectiveness of affiliates.

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Peter J. Davoren, chairman and president, Turner Construction Co., and ACE vice chairman, says, "By establishing measureable, achievable goals when it comes to growth and increasing the program's visibility, ACE's strategic plan addresses the need for additional talent in our industry head on."

Tailored to Fit

ACE National's new strategic plan has inspired affiliates across the country to develop or update their own plans, many with the encouragement and assistance of regional directors.

The **Atlanta Affiliate**, celebrating its 10th anniversary, is one such affiliate. Its volunteer leaders recently approved a strategic plan that builds on the goals and objectives of the national strategic plan, while considering the specific needs of Atlanta communities.

Amy Tribol, manager of business development with Holder Construction Co. and chair of the Atlanta Affiliate, says, "We have a base of six strong teams around the Atlanta metro area, so our plan is to grow each existing student team. In 2016–17, we are targeting 90–100 committed students, and starting in 2017–18, we'd like to add one

new team of another 20 or so committed students every year to continue to be more accessible to Atlanta high school students. We plan to achieve this growth by strengthening our relationships with Atlanta area schools, as well as expanding outside our conventional school system partnerships."

The affiliate leaders believe there is tremendous opportunity for increased student engagement through organizations such as Construction Education Foundation of Georgia, SkillsUSA and local community centers.

Tribol adds, "We also plan to leverage marketing, social media and community service to engage community, industry, education and students, and build stronger connections with associations, such as AGC, ABC and AIA, as well as build and leverage our relationships with college, university and technical schools."

The **Western Pennsylvania Affiliate** in Pittsburgh, also celebrating a milestone 10-year anniversary, has similar plans for growth and looked to Northeast Regional Director Diana Eidenshink for help drafting a tailored strategic plan, a first for the organization.

Mike Barnard, project manager with

ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT

CALLEIGH FREESE

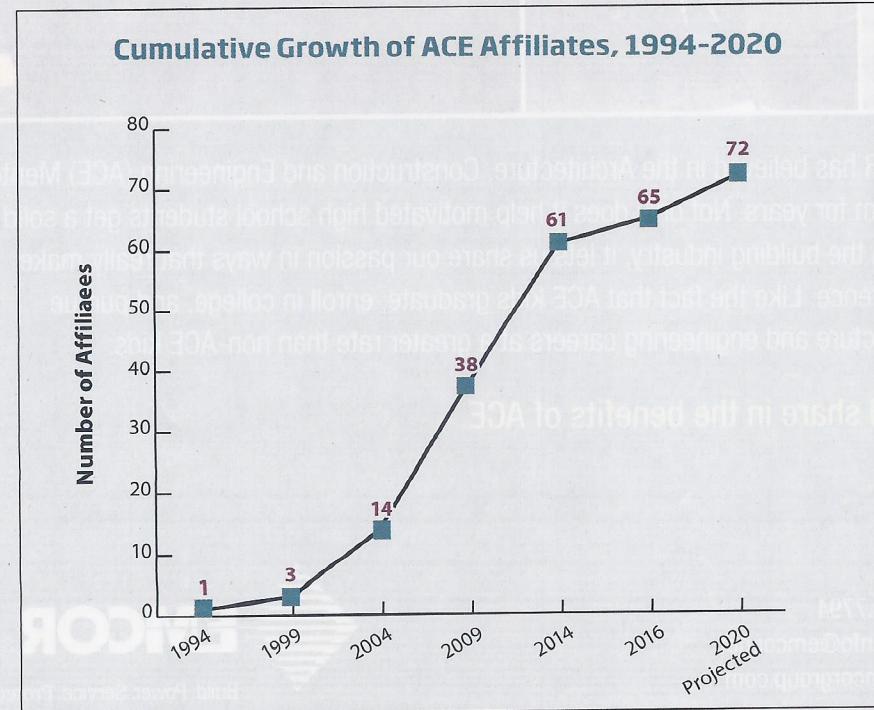
Calleigh Freese first joined the ACE Mentor Program of Greater Kansas City as a sophomore at Winnetonka High School in 2006 with an artist's creativity and a growing interest in architecture. Today, she is an architectural intern for Archetype Design Group Inc. in Kansas City, Mo., with a master's degree in architecture from the University of Kansas.



Calleigh says, "What I enjoy most about the industry is seeing the realization of a design. The practice of architecture is so different than I imagined before ACE. I never realized all the facets of the industry that I would be a part of beyond design."

Looking back, she credits her high school drafting teacher, an ACE proponent, for his encouragement, and her ACE mentors for their guidance and motivation. She's also returned as a mentor at her alma mater with a focus on encouraging young women to look at opportunities in the building and construction industry.

Calleigh says, "I returned to ACE as a mentor the fall after I graduated from college in 2014 because I wanted to give back to the program. I hope that by sharing my experiences, I can help students, especially girls, realize the many interesting, challenging and fun career choices that are available in this industry." ■





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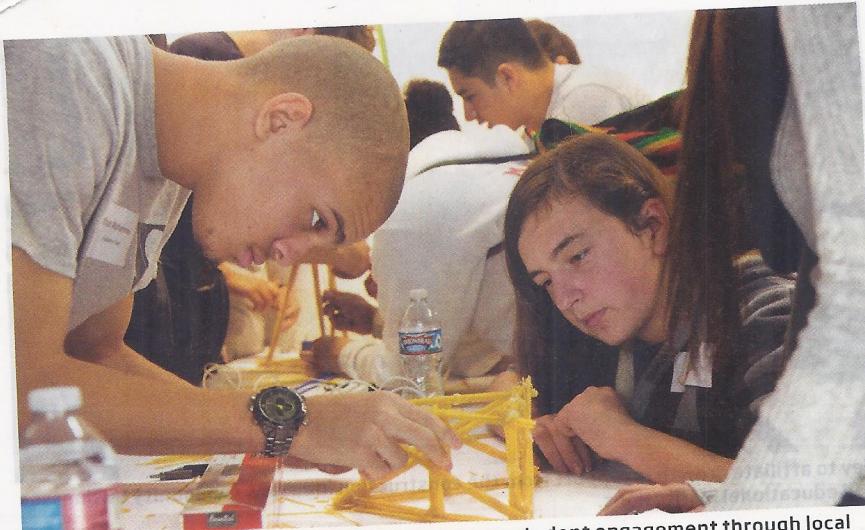
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PHOTO COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM



Key in the strategic growth initiative is to increase student engagement through local associations and community programs.

Oxford Development Co. and chair of the affiliate, says, "We've got a very active board right now, and we're trying to capture and focus that momentum."

Among its five-year goals and objectives, the group plans to grow student participation by 10% per year,

in part through the establishment of a new Westmoreland County program and increased participation by Allegheny County suburban schools. The plan includes a focused effort to recruit, vet and approve new board members, including those from inside

and outside the industry. It plans to increase involvement in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and further leverage the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship program's relationship with ACE.

Barnard says, "We've been fortunate to have great sponsors. This year, we raised over \$70,000 for scholarships. We've got great ideas for the coming years, and now, thanks to a formalized strategic plan, we have the framework in place to go forth."

Omaha's Professional Start

One of the ACE Mentor Program's newest affiliates in Omaha, Neb., has taken an atypical path as it readies to begin ACE in Omaha public schools this summer. Inspired by the ACE National strategic plan and with the guidance of Regional Director Monica Worheide, the affiliate's executive board asked for help from an experienced facilitator.

Mike McMeekin, president of Lamp Rynearson & Associates, a civil

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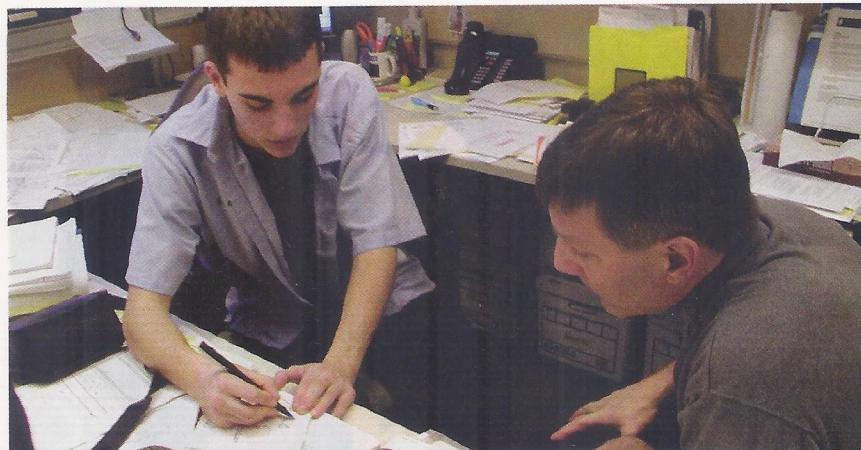
engineering and land survey firm based in Omaha, and chair of the **Omaha Affiliate**, says, "I think it's key to the long-term success of our program that we have a strategic plan in place for this

"We want a really comprehensive program that incorporates all aspects of the industry, including the trades."

—Mike McMeekin, Chair, Omaha Affiliate

first year especially. With help from our facilitator, we customized the national strategic plan to outline our strategies for recruiting students and mentors."

The affiliate plans to take advantage of the established "plug and play" ACE



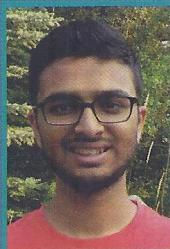
Key to affiliate growth is support from the construction industry, community businesses and educational institutions.

program to get the program started in Omaha high schools this fall, while also incorporating a construction trades component. "We want a really comprehensive program that incorporates all aspects of the industry, including the trades," explains McMeekin.

He believes that key to the new affiliate's development will be to expand its current 16-person board of directors to include representation from the subcontractor community as well as community businesses and educational institutions as it sets growth

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT



DARPAN PATEL

At the age of 14, Darpan Patel thought he might want to be an architect, but he needed more insight. He started an architecture club at his high school in Allentown, Pa., and then contacted the ACE Regional Director Diana

Eidenshink, helping establish the Lehigh Valley Affiliate (2007-2008).

Darpan, currently a design resource analyst for Aramark's Capital Projects Group, recalls, "ACE really helped me to refine my decision to study architecture, and even better, opened doors to internships."

He attended Philadelphia University and immediately volunteered as a student mentor at the Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate (Philadelphia). After college graduation in 2014, he worked as an architectural designer at Wallace Roberts & Todd LLC in Philadelphia. He returned to the Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate as a mentor and joined the Lehigh Valley Affiliate's Board of Directors. In his first year on the board, he and Eidenshink implemented ACE's first college affiliate chapter at his alma mater. The ACE college affiliate is essentially a bridge to help ACE alumni, now college students, stay better connected with the

industry and ACE. Other colleges and universities are exploring a similar option.

This past year, Darpan and a group of mentors formed a team of juniors and seniors from an inner-city school to participate in the 2016 CIRT-ACE National Design Competition. To Darpan's delight, the team finished second in the competition for its historical revitalization of a downtown Philadelphia transportation hub design.

"I believe it's important to give back what you're given. As a high school student, ACE gave me the knowledge and the confidence to achieve my goals, and a roadmap to get there."

"Like me, they learned how to communicate, how to network and gained confidence that would never have been possible without ACE," says Darpan. "It's the ultimate reward for me as a mentor and ACE alumnus, and it reminds me that every one of us can make a difference."

Darpan's work ethic, dedication to community and creative spirit represent the values of the next generation of leaders moving into the building and construction profession through ACE—and he's just 25 years old. ■



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expectations for the coming years.

He adds, "Our strategic plans calls for the participation of at least 50 students from Omaha high schools to complete the ACE program in our first year

"A champion is one element of effectiveness, and it's our job on the national board to do what we can to create that kind of commitment."

**—Hank Harris, Member,
ACE National Executive
Committee**

(2016–17). Key in achieving this goal will be building the mentor pool." To develop a strong cadre of mentors, the affiliate is also already talking with overlapping programs from local associations, including the Society of American

Military Engineers (SAME). Through his extensive activity in the local chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies, McMeekin can attract its member firms to join ACE.

McMeekin says, "In 2017, I fully expect we'll be ready to develop a multi-year strategic plan based on lessons learned in the first year and continue to rapidly grow this program."

Poised to Expand

As part of developing an overarching strategic plan, ACE National has carefully evaluated the key characteristics of a successful affiliate. The profile of a successful affiliate usually includes a heavy hitter, a champion, in the local market place that takes charge and drives participation.

"A champion is one element of effectiveness, and it's our job on the national board to do what we can to create that kind of commitment," says Hank Harris, chairman of FMI Corp.,

member of the ACE National Executive Committee and one of the authors of the ACE Mentor Program National 2016–2021 Strategic Plan.

He concludes, "Along with our cross-cutting theme of growth, we are focused on strengthening our existing affiliates and nurturing new ones to serve more students. Since I joined ACE over 10 years ago, we've gone from running on a shoestring to a stable platform with four superior regional directors and a large number of high-performing affiliates. I'm proud to say we're in really good shape and ready to take the next leap."

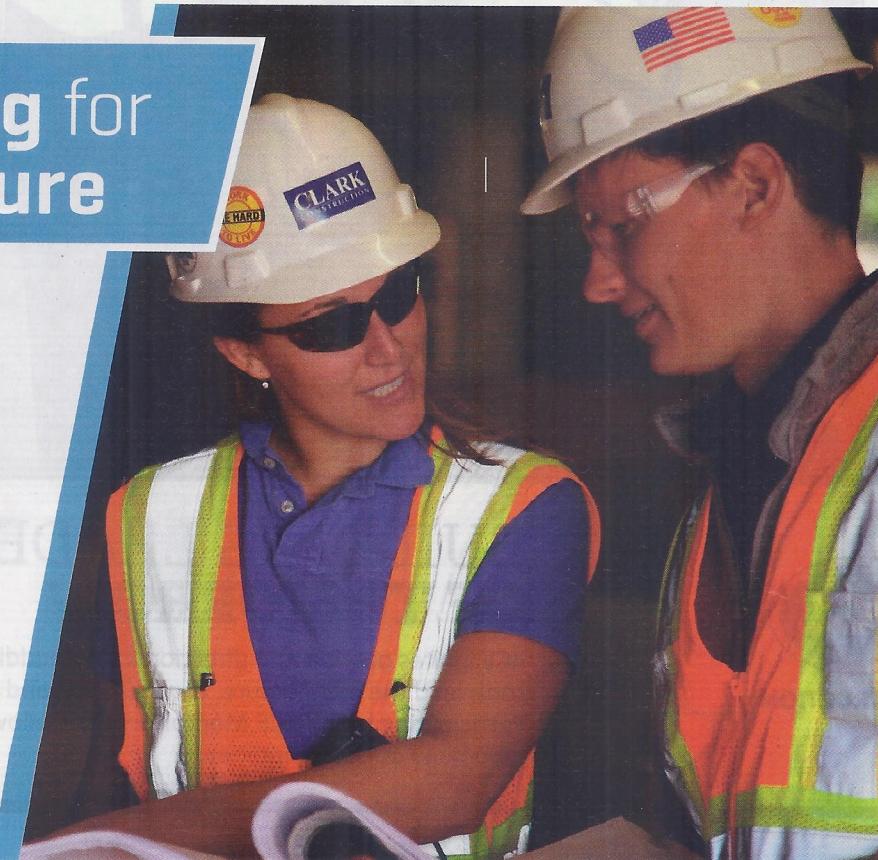
Tony Guzzi, president and CEO of EMCOR Group Inc. and vice chair of ACE Mentor's National Board of Directors, concludes, "We're excited about the road ahead. With the new strategic plan in place and the national team working to spur strategic planning with all of the affiliates, we are well-equipped to meet our objectives to grow ACE participation across the country." ■

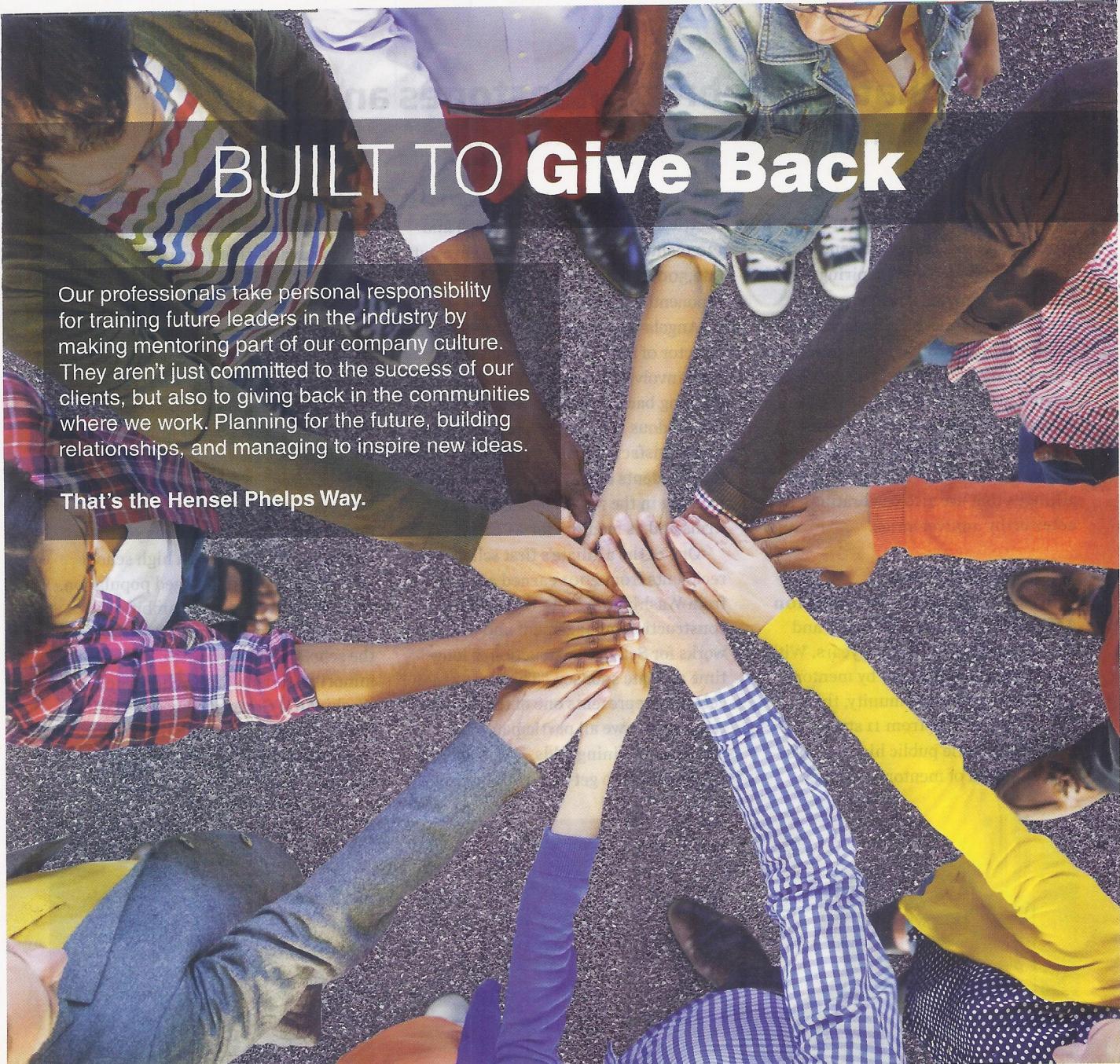
Building for the Future

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Best wishes to ACE students across the country for their continued success.

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ACE Affiliates Celebrate Milestones and Build On Momentum

In communities across the country, ACE Mentor Program affiliates are making a difference in impressive, varied and inspiring ways. From supplemental summer camps to diverse community alliances, these volunteer organizations are finding new ways to raise money for scholarships, expand program features and grow student and mentor participation.

The following highlights the vitality, innovation and growth of several affiliates that are also celebrating noteworthy anniversaries.

Washington Wows

Based in Seattle, the **Washington Affiliate** formed 15 years ago—and much has changed in those years. With remarkable commitment by mentors, sponsors and the community, this affiliate has grown from 11 students from four Seattle public high schools and a handful of mentors to almost

200 students from 47 high schools in Seattle and the metropolitan area and 130 mentors. The affiliate also gave out \$82,500 in scholarships this year—an exponential increase from \$2,000 in 2001.

Angela Gottula Twining, executive director of the Washington Affiliate, has been involved nearly from inception. Looking back, she says, "Success is a tremendous building block. I get the most satisfaction from seeing our former ACE students and scholarship winners working in the region for ACE mentor firms and as mentors for ACE."

One of the affiliate's first scholarship recipients from 2001 earned a degree from Washington State University in construction management and now works for Sellen Construction, a long-time affiliate sponsor. "This young man certainly represents one of the primary reasons that we all participate in the program," Twining adds. "We want our young people to get an education, get a

job in the industry and, hopefully, return to ACE to mentor the next generation of professionals—that's how we build the future."

Twining notes that the affiliate has grown organically over the years based on student demand and mentor availability, though it now focuses on expanding to schools with higher disadvantaged or minority populations. "We believe we can make a real difference in communities that struggle," explains Twining. "One of our scholarship winners this year was a refugee who attended a high school that serves a disadvantaged population. Her love of architecture, ambitious goals and inspiring story impressed the scholarship committee. Two other minority students had a chance to meet Washington Governor Jay Inslee with help from ACE. We think there are many more students whom we can inspire through our program."



Flanked by two Seattle Affiliate students (on left), Washington State Governor Jay Inslee (center) in April 2016 announced additional funding for his *pet* YouthWorks program that provides a stipend for students who participate in up to 90 hours of approved career-development activities, such as ACE.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM



ACE students participating in the Broward County Florida Affiliate's 2016 Summer Boot Camp toured the Miami Dolphins' stadium renovation project.

Florida's Focus

A number of ACE affiliates are celebrating 10-year milestones this year, including the **Broward County Affiliate** and **Northeast Florida Affiliate**. Each has grown in different ways.

The Broward County Affiliate has realized a 157% increase in student participation from 28 to 72 in the past four years, largely because it built on the after-school program with other supplemental opportunities.

Chip Reid, CEO of Current Builders, a long-time affiliate sponsor, says, "A few years ago, we were looking for a way to incorporate a shadowing/internship element for prospective students. Our Boot Camp is one element of this endeavor."

Through the one-week ACE Summer Boot Camp, students spend half days (afternoons) at the offices of local architects, structural engineers, MEP engineers and construction managers learning about these fields and participating in some activities. This summer's students also visited the Dolphins Stadium renovation project.

The Northeast Florida Affiliate is also realizing impressive growth thanks to focused community relationships. Founded in 2006 with significant support from the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and Haskell, the affiliate has grown from 30 students and 15 mentors to 90 students and 51 mentors. They've also increased the annual scholarship distribution from \$3,000 to more than \$19,000 this year.

Brooke A. Robbins, senior associate and architect with KBJ Architects Inc.,

and affiliate board chair, says, "We focus on ACE programs in schools that have career technical education (CTE) programs because these programs typically generate the most involvement from the students and have the teacher/school champions needed to support the program."

The Northeast Florida Affiliate has also started a partnership with the University of North Florida (UNF) to encourage its students to mentor in ACE as their time allows. Robbins says, "The number of students and mentors who participate in our program is exciting. We have some high school students who participate for all four years and return as junior mentors while they attend college. Through the UNF program, we can also offer the student mentors scholarships to continue their education (pending availability of scholarship funds and the students' participation level). We build our mentor pool and build a new bridge for our students between higher education and high schools."

Worth noting, three Northeast Florida Affiliate mentors have earned the coveted ENR-ACE Outstanding Mentor award.

Midwest Magic

The **Greater Kansas City Affiliate** and **Indianapolis Affiliate** celebrate 10-year anniversaries this year as well.

The Greater Kansas City Affiliate currently mentors 60 students in four schools spread across the Greater Kansas City area. Its growth has largely been organic, building on past successes as well as the addition of some unique teambuilding opportunities for mentors and students. For instance, because Kansas City encompasses a large area in Missouri and Kansas, the affiliate board introduced a live charrette competition that levels the playing field between schools with large and small teams of students and reduces the transportation problem.

Andrew Lack, senior project engineer with Thornton Tomasetti and chair of the affiliate's board, says, "Our sessions

focus on developing student teamwork, problem solving, communication and presentation skills. The competition day (Saturday) allows them to test these skills against a time constraint and realistic design challenge."

With mentor assistance, the students must complete a design and estimate for a given project, and then present the project in a mock 50% design review, and then in a formal presentation when complete. Lack says, "It's been a great success in our area for students, mentors, sponsors and parents."

With a slightly different strategic growth plan, the Indianapolis Affiliate has grown from less than 60 students and around 10 mentors to more than 100 students and almost 70 mentors by developing partnerships with schools that commit teachers and administrators participation. The affiliate has dispersed more than \$500,000 in scholarships.

Tiffiny Summers, marketing manager for Turner Construction Co. and member of the Indianapolis Affiliate's Board of Directors since inception, says, "We're trying to manage our growth strategically. In every case, we want to make sure we're reaching the right students and that we, as mentors, are providing the right information to get them excited about careers. It's working, as we're seeing our former students return as mentors."

She's particularly excited about the addition of Ben Davis High School this coming year because of its special career center program, which includes programs in the construction trades, HVAC, landscape management, machine tool technology and welding. She adds, "This is the perfect opportunity to incorporate the trades element into our more traditional ACE program that focuses on the architects, engineers and contractors."

Portland's Promise

The **Oregon Affiliate's** extraordinary success over the past decade speaks to the power of a collaborative community. The volunteer organization has grown from just 27 students in 2006 to 146 students from

41 schools this past year. This year, the affiliate had an amazing 97 mentors from 40 different firms and awarded a record \$72,000 in scholarships.

Michelle Schulz, a principal with GBD Architects, has been involved with the affiliate first as a mentor in 2006, then as a liaison between the affiliate's board and mentor group and, until this year, as the chair of the affiliate's board of directors. Looking back, Schulz says that the growth has been largely organic, adding, "So much of our success is due to our executive board and their community connections."

For instance, the affiliate's Executive Director Kevin Jeans Gail is with the Portland Workforce Alliance and has close connections to Portland Public Schools. Another board member, Jeanne Yerkovich, works for Portland Public Schools in the career department. With backing from these two and many others, the affiliate has earned broad support from the local business community and foundations. Case in point, its luncheon had backing from nearly 60 firms and organizations.

Schulz says, "In recent years, our affiliate has been focusing our efforts on recruiting more students from schools with high diversity and/or higher

poverty levels, and we encourage needs base in our scholarships. Mentors and board members reach out to teachers, counselors, principals, etc. We offer transportation for the students and provide food at all meetings to remove as many potential hurdles as possible."

Texas-Sized Expectations

The Greater San Antonio Affiliate

, also celebrating 10 years, has grown from 42 students and 30 mentors in 2008–09 to 93 students and 59 mentors in 2015–16. As well, the affiliate has increased its local scholarship funding from \$4,000 in 2006 to \$19,100 this year.

Laura Elvia Hernández, an associate at Ford Powell & Carson Inc., and founder and former board chair of the affiliate, recalls, "In our early days, our initial goal was to reach disadvantaged inner-city schools as a way to let young people in these communities see firsthand what opportunities are available to them. We've accomplished this goal and are now expanding to disadvantaged socioeconomic schools and rural communities just outside the inner city."

The affiliate is expanding its influence through some innovative partnerships. Hernandez says, "In 2010,

the San Antonio Independent School District required contractors that were hired through their Bond 2010 Program to provide mentors for ACE. As a result, we gained two campuses."

When asked what she's most proud of, Hernandez points to fully engaged sponsors and the deepening pool of long-term mentors, and the satisfaction of seeing former ACE students return to the program. She highlights Sarai Martinez who was an ACE student at Thomas Jefferson High School in 2012, worked as a summer intern with Turner Construction, and now works full time for Turner while she attends the University of Texas at San Antonio studying construction administration.

Hernandez concludes, "This past school year, Sarai was a co-mentor leader for our newest team at East Central. Students and other mentors are impressed by her talent, initiative and willingness to lead—especially those who knew her as a quiet ACE student. Through ACE, she gained confidence and has become the driving force behind her team's success. I think we, like every other affiliate sponsor, mentor or advocate, gain the greatest reward when we see young people like Sarai come full circle back to our program." ■

ACE Expands to New Affiliates and States

As part of its strategic growth plan, ACE added four affiliates this past year and welcomes four more for 2016–2017.

First-Year 2015–2016 Affiliates

- **Utah (Salt Lake City):** With start-up assistance from the local AIA chapter, the affiliate had one team of nine students and awarded \$4,500 in scholarships.
- **Upstate South Carolina (Greenville):** This affiliate started when two former mentors who had volunteered with the Chicago, Nashville and Charlotte affiliates crossed paths. They and nine other mentors ran an abbreviated program in spring 2016 for 11 students thanks to Turner Construction and LS3P.
- **Southern Nevada (Las Vegas):** This affiliate, supported by local industry companies, finished the year with 12 students and seven mentors and awarded \$3,000 in scholarships.
- **Austin, Texas:** Begun with the help of Gensler and the local AIA chapter, this affiliate finished the year with 17 students and 32 mentors and awarded \$4,000 in scholarships.

New 2016–2017 Affiliates

- **Hudson Valley, N.Y.:** Started by a local builder and a young architect who graduated from the Albany, N.Y., Affiliate where she also mentored for two years, the Hudson Valley Affiliate will run two teams, each with 20–25 students.
- **St. Louis, Mo.:** This affiliate will resume activity after several years of inactivity thanks in large part to HOK and McCarthy Building Companies.
- **Omaha, Neb.:** The affiliate was initiated by a member of American Council of Engineering Companies with support from Omaha AEC firms and Omaha Public Schools.
- **Honolulu, Hawaii:** Design and construction industry leaders are reviving this affiliate after a four-year hiatus.



ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT

FRANCISCO RUIZ-TATUM



Francisco Ruiz-Tatum always thought he'd be a carpenter, just like his father and many of his relatives. He understood the profession and even liked it. That's why he took CAD classes while attending Kearny High School in San Diego.

Even though college wasn't a consideration, Francisco still dreamed. He recalls, "I had an interest in architecture, but I never had any plans of studying at a university. It didn't seem attainable for me and my family's financial position."

At the recommendation of his design teacher, he joined the San Diego Affiliate's program in his junior year (2007). Over the next two years, his mentors opened up a new world of opportunity in construction. He found that his true passion is project management, eventually

choosing to study construction engineering and earning a full-tuition scholarship to San Diego State University with additional help from ACE.

Francisco graduated from college, the first in his family, in 2014 and is now an assistant superintendent for Clark Construction Group, the same company that he interned for while in high school and college. Like many other ACE graduates, he has also returned to ACE, first as a student mentor while in college and now as a professional mentor.

When asked why he mentors, Francisco replies, "I know that I would have had no chance of a professional career without my ACE experience. My mentors helped me realize my potential and gave me the confidence to pursue a dream that seemed unattainable. I would not be where I am today without ACE. I also know that there are others less fortunate than me who would benefit from the same experience so I want to give back." ■

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August 2016 | A17

ACE and Industry Associations Collaborate to Develop The Next-Generation Workforce

The ACE Mentor Program has a long history of collaboration with industry associations at the national and local level. These professional and industry groups have been integral to the success of ACE. They've helped start new affiliates, developed innovative shared programs, managed extensive fundraising events, provided financial support and offered a ready resource of excited volunteer mentors. In turn, their relationships with ACE have aided them in advancing their missions.



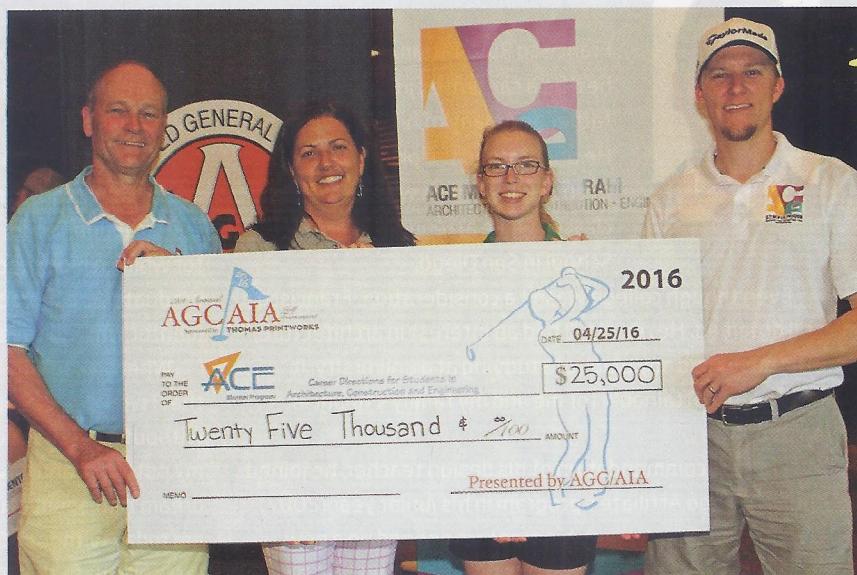
The American Institute of Architects

Architects of the Future

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) was ACE's first industry association sponsor more than a decade ago. The organization continues to spread the word about ACE across its many chapters. According to a recent survey by ACE National, more than two-thirds of ACE's 65 affiliates report ties with local AIA chapters. AIA is committed to ACE in all ways possible, from providing financial support to facilitating ACE's programmatic activities to helping to recruit mentors.

Ingrid Spencer, executive director of AIA Austin and Austin Foundation for Architecture, shares why the ACE relationship is important to AIA, saying, "ACE is the ideal mentoring component of our community outreach program. Many of our members are community leaders, and ACE provides them a chance to support and mentor the next generation." Just recently, the Austin Foundation for Architecture, the giving arm of AIA Austin, provided a \$2,000 grant to the **ACE Austin Affiliate** to cover liability insurance for the students.

ACE advocates from AIA chapters across the country have similar stories, with many taking leadership roles



The Houston Affiliate reaped \$25,000 from the annual golf tournament, which was sponsored by AGC and AIA. Pictured (from left) are Jerry Nevlund, AGC Houston president and CEO; Angela Cotie, ACE Houston president; Andrea Dunn, ACE Houston mentor; and Adam Cryer, ACE Houston vice president.

to ensure program success. Richard Cuevas, for instance, served as the ACE **Puerto Rico Affiliate's** board chair and AIA Puerto Rico past president in 2015. The AIA Salt Lake City Chapter helped launch the new **ACE Utah Affiliate** in Salt Lake City this past year, and the AIA chapter in Charlotte, N.C., among other activities, pays for two **ACE Charlotte Affiliate** students to attend the University of North Carolina's Charlotte Summer Architecture Camp.



The ABCs of ACE

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) association has sponsored ACE at the national level since 2008, and its chapters across the country have developed a fruitful range of relationships with ACE affiliates.

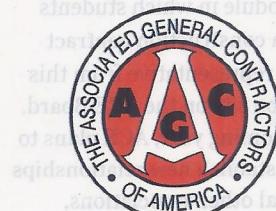
Mike Bellaman, president and

CEO of ABC and ACE board member, says, "ACE is a natural collaborative partner to ABC, helping communicate the wonderful opportunities that are available in the construction industry. We want to be the catalyst to help ACE start new affiliates in communities and expand our shared mission to help build even stronger pathways from high school through to professional careers."

Those pathways extend from Florida to California. The **Northeast Florida Affiliate** was started in 2006 with significant support from the local ABC First Coast chapter. Just recently, the ABC Women's Council helped this affiliate raise \$5,000 for scholarships.

Across the country, the Southern California ABC chapter has long partnered with the **ACE Los Angeles Affiliate**, promoting the Trades Day Program that gives ACE students hands-on exposure to the trades. Douglas Sawyer, vice president of Education for ABC Southern California, says, "Through ACE, we have a chance to plant seeds of awareness about one of the best-kept secrets in America. Trades

Day is a great opportunity for students to experience mechanical, electrical and plumbing trades first hand. Working with ACE is good for everyone involved."



AGC Advancement

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) has also been a longtime national sponsor of ACE, a relationship that has sparked impressive commitment at the local level.

Chris Monek, senior executive director of AGC and ACE board member, summarizes the comments from ACE advocates across many associations, saying, "Our relationship with ACE continues to strengthen, particularly in light of workforce shortages that we're currently experiencing. At the national and local level, our partnership is more than just dollars; it's a personal and professional commitment of time and leadership."

He points to the AGC Iowa Chapter's help to launch the **Iowa Affiliate** in Des Moines in 2006 as a pilot program. Since then, ACE has spread to another Iowa city. AGC chapters are directly responsible for starting other ACE affiliates, including **Michigan; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Albany, N.Y.; and Lexington, Ky.** In Philadelphia, the AGC/ACE tie is intimate: the AGC chapter provides office space for the **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate's** executive director.

Richard Vincent, executive vice president of AGC of Kentucky and ACE **Lexington** board member, expresses the feelings of many AGC members across the country, saying, "ACE is a great conduit for us to communicate opportunities in construction through practical applications. Right now, six people from our chapter serve on the affiliate's board. I look forward to continuing the momentum and expanding."

Sometimes the ACE/AGC relationship pushes beyond the after-school program to community activism. This past year, the young professionals involved in the Leadership AGC program partnered with and assisted the **ACE Houston Affiliate** in organizing its annual fundraiser called Build It Forward, a one-day event to build storage benches for area charitable organizations.



ASLA

The Grass is Greener

Since 2006, members of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) have worked with ACE affiliates in some innovative, collaborative and for the ACE Board. One of the most popular ASLA/ACE collaborations has been the Legacy Project. The goal of the project is to promote positive change in the host cities of the ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO by building something for a local community organization.

The projects have ranged from the development of an educational and native garden for a San Diego middle school to a garden and outdoor classroom at a Washington, D.C., high school. This past year, ASLA's Illinois Chapter partnered for the second time with the **ACE Chicago Affiliate** and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to design a plaza at Curie Metro High School.

Terry Poltrack, director of public relations for ASLA, adds, "This fall, ASLA members and EXPO exhibitors will again partner with ACE affiliates, this time in New Orleans, to renew the grounds of a local school in an underserved area of the city. These projects are among ASLA's proudest accomplishments, and they would not happen without ACE involvement."

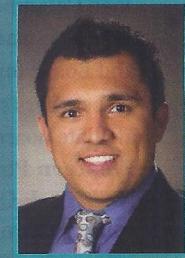
Expanding Relationships

ACE continues to build strong relationships with associations that the

ACE ALUM SPOTLIGHT

JOSE BOJORQUEZ

California native Jose Bojorquez joined ACE in his junior year (2008-09) at Kearny High School, connected to the San Diego Affiliate, as way to evaluate construction-related career opportunities.



He recalls, "My father was a residential construction superintendent, but I didn't really know about the industry as a whole. Through ACE field trips and interaction with mentors, I quickly learned that construction management was my passion."

In 2014, Jose became the first member of his family to graduate college when he earned a bachelor's degree in construction engineering from San Diego State University with the help of an ACE scholarship. Today, he's a project engineer for ACE sponsor firm McCarthy Building Companies.

But, he didn't leave ACE behind. He supported ACE as a student mentor while in college, and once he graduated and went to work for McCarthy, he returned to ACE as a professional mentor.

"ACE is all about making a difference in students' lives, and that's fantastic," says Jose. "Look what it did for me. I come from a low-income family, and without ACE, I wouldn't be where I am today. I am glad I learned about ACE because now I have a place to go to help others just like me." ■

gamut of the building and construction industry, from the trades to the engineering and legal professions.

For instance, the **International Masonry Institute** (IMI)'s president, Joan Calambokidis, has served on the ACE National Executive Committee and Board for years. As well, local IMI staffers sit on a number of ACE affiliate boards, including **Annapolis, Western Pennsylvania, Greater New York City and Eastern Pennsylvania**. Local IMI offices offer ACE affiliates training facilities, mentorship and scholarship funds.

On the engineering side, the **American Society of Civil Engineers** (ASCE) has been a member of the ACE Advisory Council at the national level for many years and is involved at the local level. The **San Francisco Bay Area Affiliate** partnered with ASCE on a golf tournament and received some of the proceeds.

Also, the **American Council of Engineering Companies** (ACEC) continues to expand its ACE support. ACEC New York and Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (ACEC Florida chapter) both contribute scholarships, and their members serve as mentors and on the affiliate boards. The ACEC Omaha, Neb., chapter has also assisted with the startup of the new **Omaha Affiliate**. On the national level, discussions are underway to find ways to form stronger ties with ACEC.

IMPACT, an organization focused on educating and supporting ironworkers, is also building its ACE relationships, most recently as one of the startup sponsors for the new **Southern Nevada Affiliate** (Las Vegas). With help from sponsors like IMPACT, the affiliate will help mentor students from Northwest Career and Technical Academy, a magnet school for future engineers, designers and mechanical systems among other programs.

ACE has enjoyed a fruitful relationship with **ABA Forum on the Construction Industry** over several years. Members of this legal group helped ACE develop a well-received activity module in which students negotiate a construction contract dispute. A representative from this organization sits on the ACE Board.

In the coming year, ACE plans to revive or establish new relationships with several other associations, including the Construction Management Association of America and MAPPS, a national association of mapping, photogrammetry and geospatial firms.

"ACE gains much from its industry and professional association partners," says Jack Kalavritinos, ACE president and CEO. "We thank them for their commitment and look forward to growing these relationships and others as a way to further our common workforce development goals to develop the next-generation leaders." ■

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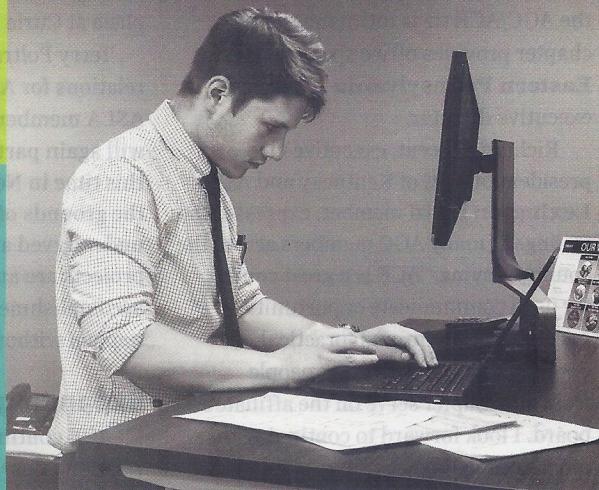
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CIRT and ACE Celebrate 10th National Design Competition Anniversary

A record 55 entries representing 20 ACE affiliates from across the country competed for top honors in the 10th Annual CIRT-ACE National Design Competition this year—an impressive jump from six entries a decade ago. For Mark A. Casso, president of CIRT, the milestone was particularly satisfying, as it further validated his organization's initial vision for the competition, which was to give ACE student-mentor teams experience with real-world practical challenges.

Casso, the mastermind of the annual event, recalled that CIRT, a national business association comprised of approximately 115–120 CEOs from leading design/construction companies, had identified the attracting, training and eventual identification of new leaders as one of the top three issues facing the industry. In fact, at the time, concerns about workforce shortages had steered many CIRT firms to become active participants in the rapidly expanding ACE Mentor Program, both financially and as mentors.

"It was this latter element that helped inspire the national competition initiative as a means to tap into the

natural competitive juices of the industry professionals who volunteer as ACE mentors," explains Casso. "What better way to get the teams excited and focused than to showcase their abilities on a national stage?"

Spotlighting Young Leaders

Casso estimates that more than 1,500 students have been involved in the competition since inception. The competition format has remained fairly consistent over the years, with slight adjustments primarily in the number and type of challenges in addition to the size of the awards. Currently, there are three competition categories with particular emphasis on heavy civil solutions. Over the life of the competition, CIRT has awarded almost \$104,000 in prizes, including \$14,750 this year. The top prize to the winning affiliate totaled \$5,000.

Casso marvels at the advancement in solutions/concepts quality and the amazing ability of the student teams to make articulate, cogent presentations before a panel of top industry leaders. He adds, "The poise, thoughtfulness and commitment these students bring

to the national competition should be a comfort to our community. If this is any indication of the diversity and character of the next generation we are attracting to our industry, we'll be in good hands!"

Much like 10 years ago, CIRT executives believe that the ACE program addresses an important need for the industry, namely attracting the next generation of talented professionals to fill the many challenging job/career opportunities in the industry.

Expanding Digital Connections

Casso believes that CIRT's participation in ACE has "infused a level of energy and enthusiasm back in our ranks, helping the CIRT CEOs recall all of their positive feelings when they first entered the industry."

To further this impact to a larger segment of the design/construction community, ACE Mentor Program President and CEO Jack Kalavritinos

The 10th Annual CIRT-ACE National Design Competition Winners

1st Place: ACE of Greater New York City (Team 30)

RESILIEN-City: Students redesigned a more resilient shoreline near Coney Island, which Hurricane Sandy devastated a few years ago.

2nd Place: ACE Mentor Program of Eastern Pennsylvania

The Last Stop: Students repurposed a Philadelphia trolley maintenance shop that will go out of service in a few years.

3rd Place: ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida (Orange Park High School Team)

Unity Bridge: Students designed an iconic, multi-modal bridge across the St. John's River.

Best Presentation Boards: ACE Mentor Program of Seattle

Sound Connection



Students and mentors from Team 30 of the Greater New York City Affiliate who placed first in the 2016 CIRT-ACE National Design Competition.



Pictured is the ACE of Greater New York City (Team 30) RESILIEN-City 1st place presentation board.

agreed to coordinate his spring national board program with the CIRT competition, thereby exposing his top sponsors and supporters to the extraordinary abilities that the student teams display. "It is a real celebration of why organizations, firms and individuals give so generously to the program in the first place," he notes.

This collateral impact of ACE has resulted in an unexpected benefit that will further enhance the competition's

value. Plans are underway to develop a digital online platform through a collaborative effort with the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) that will facilitate judging and provide other logistical advantages.

"CAF has some experience conducting digital design/construction competitions. We hope to take advantage of this for future programs starting as soon as 2017," says Casso. "With the online platform as the procedural backbone, the competition is poised for the next 10 years of exponential growth."

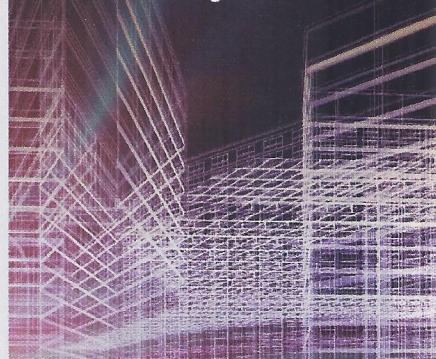
The semifinal and final rounds of this year's 10th Anniversary CIRT-ACE National Design Competition were held at the Marriott Metro Center in Washington, D.C., with more than 150 attendees and top executives and CEOs from leading AEC firms. To celebrate the competition's anniversary, nine teams—three in each of the three challenge categories—were invited to Washington. ■



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2016 ENR-ACE Mentor Program Outstanding Mentors



Pictured (from left) are ACE Mentor Program President and CEO Jack Kalavritinos; 2016 Outstanding Mentors Crystal Markley, Vanessa Shumate, Lianne Bell, Maria Bumgarner, Michael Tecci and Jeremy Voss; and ENR Publisher Scott Seltz.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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As selected by a jury of previous Outstanding Mentor award winners, the following mentors have demonstrated exceptional dedication, creativity and commitment to the ACE Mentor Program. Each of their affiliates received a \$2,000 student scholarship to be named after them. The Outstanding Mentor award program is supported by *Engineering News-Record (ENR)* and its parent company, BNP Media.

Lianne Bell, SE

Project Manager, KPFF Consulting Engineers

For eight years, Lianne has led one of the **San Diego Affiliate's** teams with students from an inner-city school. An organized, creative mentor and team leader, Lianne uses her project management skills to energize students and help recruit, retain and train other mentors. Over the past decade, she has mentored more than 300 students, of which several are now mentors, and serves on the affiliate's board of directors.

An affiliate of The Pennsylvania State University

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM



Maria Bumgarner

MEP Project Engineer, Mortenson Construction

When only two students from one high school registered for the ACE program in the emerging **Twin Cities Affiliate**, Maria took charge. Through her outreach efforts at a high school in an underserved neighborhood, Maria helped the team end the year with nine active students—who placed second in the affiliate's final presentation event.

Crystal Markley, PE

Civil Engineer

During a decade with the **Northeast Florida Affiliate**, Crystal has mentored more than 175 ACE students using creative teamwork modules and engaging hands-on activities. She makes the extra effort to continue ACE alum relationships in their college and professional years. As a board member, Crystal represents ACE at professional outreach events, recruits new mentors

and facilitates mentor orientation sessions. She is a lead civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Vanessa Shumate, AIA

Project Architect, American Structurepoint Inc.

A born nurturer, Vanessa encourages and empowers her students to think creatively, communicate and work as a team. She has mentored with the **Indianapolis Affiliate** for nine years and co-led a team for the past four years. She helps students take the next career step, writing letters of recommendation and arranging internships. She has also recruited 20 new mentors for the affiliate.

Michael Tecci, PE

Senior Staff II (Structures), Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

As a mentor with the **Boston Affiliate** since its 2007 start and board member for the past five years, Mike

has found innovative ways to engage students with new activities and helped double the number of students from 42 to 80 in one year. When the 2015 blizzard shut down Boston for several weeks, he devised a way for students to participate remotely. He spearheaded the affiliate's partnership with Autodesk to receive free software and training, and in 2016 introduced a Trades Day.

Jeremy Voss

Senior Project Manager, PCL Construction Services

For the past four years with the **Central Florida Affiliate**, Jeremy has led a team of 30 students from several south Orlando schools. In 2015, he inspired his team to enter the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition, which was a first for the Orlando affiliate. Beyond mentoring, he and another mentor started an annual golf tournament that has become the affiliate's largest source of scholarships. ■

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ACE's Digital Presence Dramatically Expands

Paralleling ACE's growth in the real world is its widening presence in the digital world. In the year ending June 2016, ACE National's followers across its three social media platforms—Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn—grew by 75%. ACE's website is on track to far exceed 100,000 visitors, with more than half of those visits from newcomers.

Andrew Frankel, the ACE West regional director and ACE's social media manager, says, "In recent years, we've seen an escalation in the use of these platforms to communicate with students, parents, mentors, sponsors and alumni, build our community presence and reach new audiences."

Social media traffic at the affiliate level has also risen. More than half of ACE affiliates have a Facebook presence, and almost 40% have active Twitter accounts. Those percentages are expected to rise considerably, as many affiliates are using social media to drive growth and visibility.

For example, the **Eastern Pennsylvania, Northeast Florida** and **Greater New York** affiliates rely on social media, particularly Twitter for live event Tweets, to highlight student projects, affiliate news and relevant content. **Dallas/Ft. Worth** uses Facebook to contact students about meeting locations and resources. Many affiliates share team photos, promote events, announce scholarships and internships,



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

Kevin Brown Jr., ACE alum, current mentor and board member with the **Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate** and construction manager for Urban Engineers, and Raphael Scott, recent **Chicago Affiliate** graduate, discussed ACE's impact during the PBS American Graduate Day national broadcast.

and thank sponsors on their Facebook pages. The **Tampa Affiliate** posts news about local construction industry developments that have a bearing on its project for the year.

Frankel adds, "Our social media campaigns have successfully exposed a wider audience to what ACE does."

Thornton Tomasetti

Thornton Tomasetti salutes Chairman Charlie Thornton and the ACE Mentor program for their leadership in the design and construction industry.



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He points to ACE's participation in the Women in Construction Week campaign earlier this year. ACE social media posts included photos of and statements from 22 amazing ACE women mentors and affiliate leaders talking about the importance of their positions in the construction industry and as role models for young women in ACE.

"Our linked posts to the National Association of Women in Construction's national #WICweek campaign turned out to be our most successful campaign by far, probably because of the compelling personal stories and photos," concludes Frankel.

ACE's highest-profile media presence this year was the Oct. 3, 2015 PBS broadcast of American Graduate Day (AGD) celebrating individuals and nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping youth graduate high school.

"This was a high point of our media visibility this past year," says Frankel. "The PBS broadcast was viewed in 49 states and 138 major markets. As a follow up, PBS stations in Louisville, Ky.; Washington, D.C.; and Nashville, Tenn., profiled local ACE affiliates. PBS

affiliates in Seattle and Los Angeles expect to feature the local ACE affiliates later this year."

Also, ACE's national and local sponsors, such as Stantec, have a rich presence on their websites that more extensively highlight their ACE involvement and the program's benefits.

ACE Mentor Program President and CEO Jack Kalavritinos firmly

believes that ACE should have an active presence in the digital world. He frequently posts on Twitter, and in spring 2015, with help from EMCOR, he reinvigorated ACE's e-newsletter. With the new title of *ACE Insider* and an eye-catching design, the publication is delivered monthly to approximately 9,000 mentors, affiliate leaders, alumni and sponsors. ■



ACE's Social Media Platforms at a Glance 2015-2016



- Created in 2010
- 67% growth in past year
- 3,000 followers
- 55% of affiliates have Facebook pages



- ACE group page started in 2009
- More than 100% member growth over past year
- 5,500 members
- 27% of affiliates with group page



- Started in 2012
- 130% increase in followers (over two years)
- 1,500 followers
- Approximately 15,000 impressions per month
- 38% of affiliates have Twitter accounts

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Jack Kalavritinos, President and CEO, ACE Mentor Program of America, Looks Ahead

How does ACE's new strategic plan calling for growth translate into participant numbers?

First, I'm happy to say that ACE Mentor—both ACE National and our 65 affiliates—is in a very good place. We have a sound and improving infrastructure, documented success, tremendous support from industry and educators, and extraordinary mentors—and we shouldn't be shy about reaching for high goals. Considering what I've heard in recent months about plans that are already underway and the commitment to strategic planning, I don't think that we will have any problem reaching 10,000 students in our program in the next five years.

How will the plan affect affiliates?

At the national level, our mission is to find ways to create more value, reduce obstacles and provide more resources to our 65-plus affiliates. To do that, we have developed a plan that combines the necessary organizational structure for

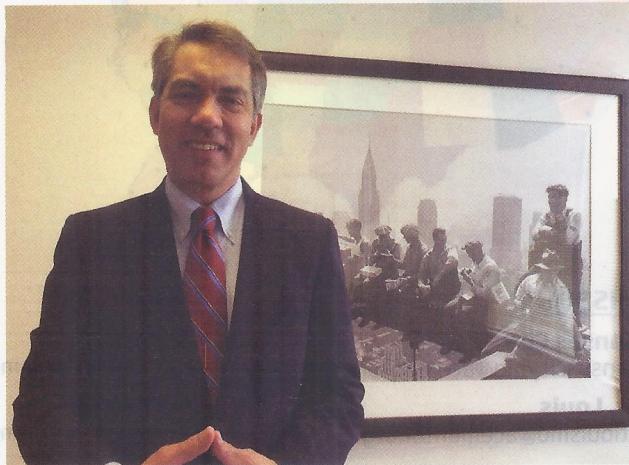


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security, risk management and compliance, while also giving our affiliates the freedom to grow in their own unique ways. Our four regional directors play a vital role in translating those objectives in a way that makes sense, spurs growth and

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strengthens affiliate operations. The idea is that each affiliate uses the national plan to craft a customized multiyear strategic plan based on its resources, capabilities and goals. This year alone, scores of affiliates are redoing their existing plans or creating their first strategic plans.

Will ACE need to upgrade its infrastructure to accommodate growth?

Yes. For instance, our size and emerging needs have already outstripped the capabilities of our ACE database. Over the next year, we'll put in place a brand new database with much more functionality and vastly improved features that will ease the load on affiliates. We also need to streamline and strengthen our administrative procedures. Toward this end, we will publish the long-awaited "Procedures and Policies Guide" later this year that standardizes ACE's administrative practices and will bolster our sharing of best practices. We also have worked with Turner University to be able to provide, for the first time, standardized and updated mentor training online.

Will you need to bring on more staff at the national level?

Our goal is to remain lean and keep the focus on supporting affiliates. We currently achieve our goals through a combination of ACE National and in-kind contributions of companies like EMCOR, which manages our website, publicity and database. That said, we have hired Stefanie Ryan as our director of finance and operations. Her job is to manage the insurance and compliance programs across our many affiliates, among other key responsibilities that help our overall operation function smoothly. We also have welcomed Yolanda Hendricks who together with Katie Basset helps to provide key support at the headquarters. As our footprint expands and we offer more programs, our staff may need to modestly grow.

Are you adding more affiliates in 2016-2017?

Yes, we have three affiliates—Omaha, Neb.; St. Louis; and Hudson Valley, N.Y.—coming online this fall. And it looks like our western-most affiliate in Hawaii is recreating itself to be back online this year. Several other locations are just beginning to form or are in a preliminary exploratory phase. We'll be able to talk about them next year.

What program improvements are in the works?

We have many, but the first one that comes to mind is our new partnership with STEM Premier. Modeled like a sports recruiting site, STEM Premier virtually connects high school and college students in STEM fields—such as our own ACE students and alumni—to universities and employers. All ACE students and graduates are eligible without charge to use the

site to develop digital portfolios that showcase their talents and achievements, including their involvement with ACE. What's really a great benefit to our students is that through STEM Premier, they have complete free access to the Red Kite college financial aid program, which includes some \$30 billion in scholarship opportunities. Also, ACE sponsors can join for a discount, and ACE National has a complimentary membership to track students through college and employment.

How is funding progressing for ACE?

We have an amazing board of directors and group of national sponsors who are committed at the highest executive levels. Year after year, almost all of our sponsor companies return, and every year, we add a number of new ones. ACE Chairman Tom Gilbane and others on the executive committee have made it a personal mission to spread the word, and it's really working. But for us to continue to grow and to support that growth, we must continue to add more national resources. At the local level, affiliates raised an inspiring \$1.5 million in scholarship money this past year.

What do your visits to affiliates tell you about ACE's future?

I've traveled to more than a dozen states this year, and I've seen the passion of students, mentors and school champions first hand. The pride shown by parents is also incredibly heartwarming. Every time our students are featured in the community for the projects they design and sometimes build, for the scholarships they receive or at their final presentations, we're making ACE stronger. We're doing good work—necessary work that is literally changing our world and the lives of our students. We've got much more work to do and can't wait to start implementing it over the next year. ■



Affiliates are developing their own customized, multiyear strategic plans based on individual resources, capabilities and goals to expand ACE and give students more opportunities to learn about the construction profession.

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ACE in the Press and on the Air 2015-2016

Newspapers, periodicals and broadcast outlets continue to spread news of ACE's successes, as demonstrated by the following sample of press coverage from the past year.

- The digital magazine *Built Worlds* ran two articles, one on April 10, 2016 about the **Chicago Affiliate's** final presentations, and the other on May 10, 2016 about the CIRT-ACE National Design Competition finals in Washington, D.C.
- Charlie Thornton's presentation at the **Oregon Affiliate's** fundraising luncheon received full coverage in the *Oregon Daily Business Journal* (April 22, 2016).
- **San Diego Affiliate** mentor Lianne Bell was featured on a KNSD-TV (April

28, 2016) segment about her receipt of the 2016 Outstanding Mentor award.

- The April 23, 2016 *Orlando Sentinel's* story about the construction industry labor shortage focused on a student active in the **Central Florida Affiliate**.
- The **Chattanooga Affiliate's** award banquet was featured in *The Chattanooga* (Feb. 23, 2016).
- A **Connecticut Affiliate** student received a full profile in the *West Haven Voice* (April 7, 2016).
- The ACE summer camp organized by Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University was covered by Nashville's WTVF-TV (July 15, 2016), on Murfreesboro's WGNS radio (July 16, 2016) and in Murfreesboro's *Daily News Journal* (July 13, 2016).
- *Yahoo Finance* (July 12, 2016) publicized the ACE-STEM Premier partnership.
- **New Orleans Affiliate** students and their design to repurpose a building on

their school campus was featured on WDSU-TV (April 5, 2016).

- The **Twin Cities Affiliate's** final competition was the focus of an article in *Finance & Commerce* (March 23, 2016).
- WUHF-TV Rochester (March 24, 2016) interviewed a **Rochester, N.Y., Affiliate** mentor and student about their involvement in ACE.
- The start-up of the **Upstate South Carolina Affiliate** in Greenville was featured in the *Charleston Regional Business Journal* (March 15, 2016).
- *The Herald-Palladium* (May 19, 2016) of St. Joseph described the activities of a new **Michigan Affiliate** team.
- Three PBS affiliates—KET-TV in Louisville, Ky., (March 8, 2016), WHUT-TV in Washington, D.C., and NPT-TV in Nashville, Tenn., (Dec. 9, 2015)—featured the work of local ACE affiliates as a follow up to the national PBS broadcast of American Graduate Day (Oct. 3, 2015) when an ACE mentor and student were interviewed. ■

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ACE students use simple building tools to learn about design and construction methods.

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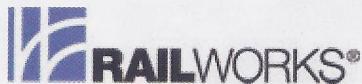
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ACE Mentors and Leaders Are the Tops

In the 2015–16 program year, many ACE mentors and leaders received special honors and recognition in part because of their volunteer work for ACE.

ENR Top 20 Under 40

- **Damayanti Chaudhuri**, DeSimone Consulting Engineers, **Greater New York Affiliate**
- **Kyle Frandsen**, Balfour Beatty Construction, **San Diego Affiliate**
- **Sarah Khner**, Quandel Construction Group, **Central Pennsylvania Affiliate**
- **Cara Levy**, HDR, **Greater New York City Affiliate**
- **Thai Nguyen**, PCL Construction Services, **Los Angeles Affiliate**
- **Brooke Robbins**, KBJ Architects, **Northeast Florida Affiliate**

- **Jeremy Voss**, PCL Construction Services, **Central Florida Affiliate**

Consulting-Specifying Engineer Top 40 Under 40

- **Toby White**, Arup, **Boston Affiliate**
- **Jeff Yirak**, Wood Harbinger, **Seattle Affiliate**

Building Design + Construction Top 40 Under 40

- **Marcia Alvarado**, TRC Worldwide Engineering, **Tampa Affiliate**
- **Akilah Dardeen**, TriVersity Construction Group, **Indianapolis Affiliate** and formerly with **Washington, D.C., Affiliate**
- **Virginia Marquardt**, DLR Group, **Los Angeles Affiliate**

- **Monika Thadhani**, VOA, **Chicago Affiliate**

Other Awards

- **Richard Anderson** (New York Building Congress), vice chairman of the **Greater New York City** board of directors, received the 2016 Keystone Award from the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation.
- **Gilbane Building Company** was added to the Mass Mentoring Partnership's 2016 Corporate Honor Roll in recognition of the company's longstanding involvement in the **Boston Affiliate**.
- **Josh Braby** (Neumann Brothers), a **Central Iowa Affiliate** mentor, was named to the 2016 40 Under 40 list by the *Des Moines Business Record*.



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• **Maria Loitz** (BVH Integrated Services), president of the **Connecticut Affiliate's** Board of Directors, earned the 2016 Woman of Achievement Award bestowed by the Connecticut chapter of Professional Women in Construction.

• **Jon Magnusson** (Magnusson Klemencic Associates), founding member and past president of **Washington State Affiliate**, received the inaugural *Engineering News-Record Northwest* Legacy Award.

• **Brian Warfield**, Haskell, **Northeast Florida Affiliate** mentor, won Haskell's 2015 Engineer of the Year award.

• **Alicia Weaver** (KSS Architects), **New Jersey Affiliate** mentor, was named the 2015 AIA New Jersey Intern Architect of the Year.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACE MENTOR PROGRAM



ACE mentors strive to develop clever and fun ways to excite young people about the building and construction industry.

• **Gia Zapattini** (Perkins + Will), **Dade County Florida Affiliate** mentor and board member in

2015, earned the Miami AIA chapter's 2015 Young Architect of the Year award. ■



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
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