



# ACE Mentor Program of Cleveland



John Hay sophomore Angel Parkham speaks to a crowd of mentors, sponsors, family, and peers at the ACE Final Presentation Night.



John Hay students toured the University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to view the construction progress.



John Hay juniors construct various types of popsicle bridges in a structural engineering mentoring session led by Thorson Baker & Associates.

## Introduction

The ACE Mentor Program provides mentoring to high school students in the areas of construction, design, engineering, and the trades. It was launched in 1995 and formed to address the shortage of qualified workers within the construction industry. According to Executive Director Pamela Mullender, by the year 2012 there will be 1.5 million jobs available in the construction industry. ACE is working to bridge the gap between the number of people entering our industry and future staffing needs by mentoring middle and high school students and teaching them about architecture, engineering, and construction.

The organization has recently experienced tremendous growth and currently there are 136 locations and more than 8,800 students participating around the country. It is anticipated that 60 more cities will sign up over the next two years. More than 4,000 industry professionals serve as mentors nationwide.

National industry organizations such as American Institute of Architects (AIA), Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) serve as sponsors and support ACE's commitment to workforce development.

## How it Works

### Affiliates

Affiliate organizations are responsible for assembling "mentor teams". These teams emulate project teams and contain an owner firm, architect, engineer, construction manager, general contractor, and skilled craftsmen. Each mentor team is then partnered with a student team at a local high school with one "lead" firm handling the scheduling and coordination of activities. The number of student teams within an affiliate depends upon the number of available mentors.

*Cleveland Metropolitan School District is hosting three mentor teams throughout the 2010-2011 school year at both the John Hay Campus and James F. Rhodes High School. Nearly 60 students in grades 11-12 participate in Cleveland.*

## Participating Mentor Firms

Array Healthcare Facility Solutions • Burt Hill • Barber & Hoffman • CEDA • Chas E. Phipps Company • Cleveland State University • CT Consultants • Cuyahoga Community College • Herschman Architects • Gilbane Building Company • Michael Benza & Associates • Panzica Construction Company • PSI • Regency Construction Services • R.L. Hill Management • The Coniglio Company • Thorson Baker & Associates • VIP Restoration • University Hospitals



Under the direction of ARRAY, John Hay students "design" multi-million dollar homes while learning about owner and architect responsibilities on a construction project.



Students at James F. Rhodes High School participated in a hands-on activity led by VIP Restoration on the technique involved in tuck pointing and masonry.



Regency Construction Services, Inc. led the students at John Hay in a creative lesson using building blocks to teach the fundamentals of construction management, estimating, and scheduling.

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## Firm Commitment

Teams meet in after-school sessions 15 times for two-hour lessons throughout the school year. Firms would be expected to commit approximately 30-40 hours each school year. Senior management must be willing to provide the flexibility and resources necessary to support those employees participating in the program.

## Types of Activities

Mentor teams are responsible for developing the curriculum for each student session and ACE has created a "best practices manual" to assist teams with this function. Typical events over the 15 weeks may include:

Mentoring sessions: introduce students to a specific segment in industry with hands-on activities (i.e. preparing a mock contractor bid, using surveying equipment, or designing, estimating, and constructing a LEGO structure).

- College visits: meet with admissions departments
- Field trips to job sites
- Special speaker presentations
- Project development: conceptualize, design, and create a project
- Final presentations: students present to families, teachers, and industry leaders
- Scholarship presentations events

## 2010 Scholarship Awards

On May 11, 2010 the second annual Final Presentation Night was held for the Cleveland Affiliate. More than 200 guests including students, parents, CMSD representatives, and mentoring firms attended this banquet. The banquet serves as an end-of-year event, where students present their final design projects and are awarded scholarships. This year, seven students were awarded a total of \$10,000. These students were selected based upon an application process, overall effort and participation in the ACE program, and sincere interest in the construction industry.



2010 Scholarship award winners from John Hay and James Rhodes High Schools at the Final Presentation Night banquet. (Left to right) Carlos Ruiz, Ashley Green, Emily Boehnlein, Sharia Fruits, Candice Harris, Brandon McEwen, and Brandon Chestnut.